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THE SPECTATOR

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Report: Drunken Custodian's 2 a.m. Dorm Intrusion

by Scott Bixby '11
News Editor

The issue of dormitory security has been raised again on the Hill in response to yet another female student encountering an unwelcome visitor in the middle of the night. At around 2:30 a.m. on Monday morning, the woman, who requested that neither she nor her dormitory be mentioned by name, was writing a paper when she heard a vaguely familiar voice calling out her name from the hall.

"I just assumed it was someone I knew out in the hallway, some friend or whatever," said the student. "I opened the door and he was just standing there."

In this case, "he" was the dormitory's custodian. The student stated, "It was a janitor in our dorm. I'd always been friendly with him… when I saw him in the halls or something, I'd say hello or make small talk."

The custodian did not try to gain entrance to the student's room, the doorway to which she was physically blocking. Instead, he tried to start a conversation, at which point the student became aware of what she called his "obvious" intoxication.

"He was obviously drunk. *Very* drunk. He tried to start a conversation, and he was saying weird, nonsensical things."

Sensing the student's discomfort, the custodian decided to leave. "Eventually, he just said, 'I've had a couple of beers. I should probably go, this is creepy.' And then he

see ***Custodian,*** *page 3*

Students' Cars Burglarized

by Kara Labs '09
News Editor

On November 9, at about 5:15 p.m. Sam McNerney '11 went out to his '97 Jeep Wrangler, which was parked in Root Extension Lot, only to find that the driver's side window was smashed and shards of glass were all over the seat and interior. His radio was detached and left on the seat of his car. McNerney stated that there

see ***Vandalism,*** *page 2*

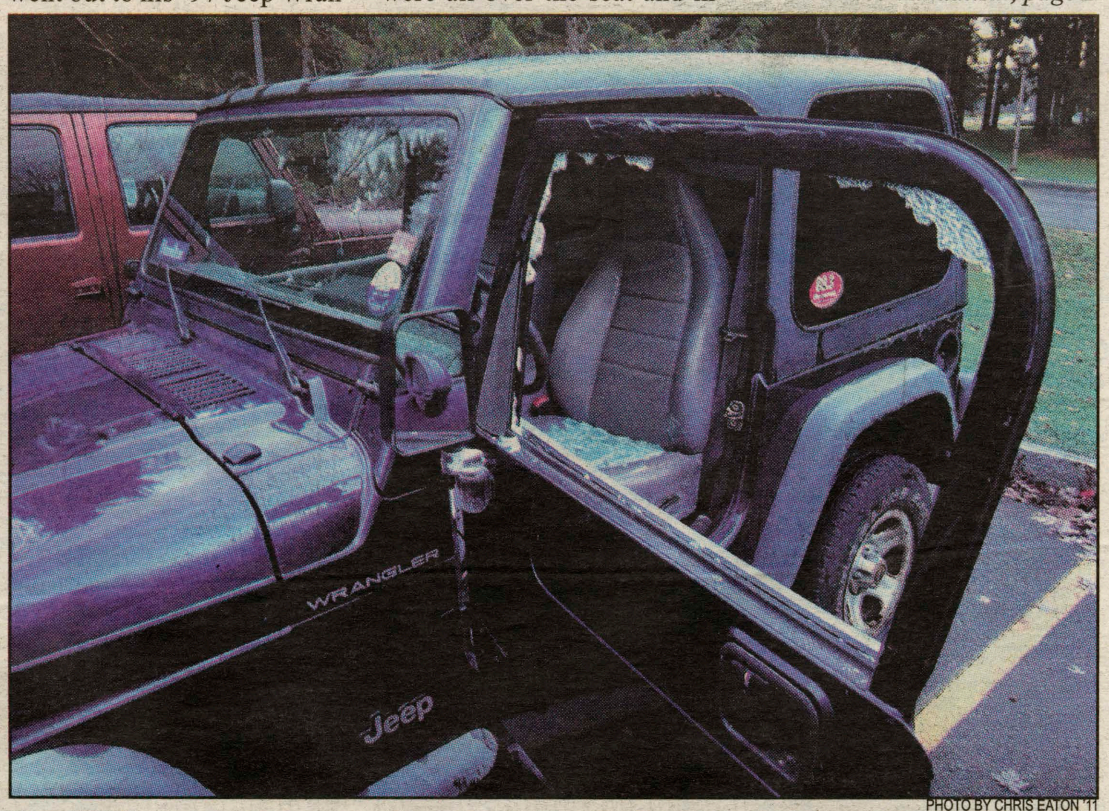


PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

Sam McNerney's '11 Jeep had its driver-side window smashed in a burglary attempt.

One Major Sewage Situation

by Julia Mulcrone '11
News Writer

On both Sunday and Monday, sewage water flooded the first floor hallway of Major Residence Hall, soaking the hallway carpet and creeping into the carpeting of some rooms. In both cases, the flooding was the result of a clog in a sewage pipe that forced water to rise out of a drain and into the hall.

The first flooding incident occurred Sunday morning. Sewage water flowed out of the washing machine drains and into the carpeted hallway on the first floor. Plumbers determined that a clog resulting from paper towels in the sewage pipe had led to the flooding and cleared out the pipe. The custodial staff cleaned the area.

Unfortunately, around 11 p.m. Monday night, the drains backed up again, reflooding with sewage water the area that had just been cleaned. According to Wes Hughes '11, the water in the hallway was an inch high at its worst.

The residents of Major received an exasperated e-mail from Resident Advisor Tristan Rios '10 notifying them of the situation and asking them to suspend water use until the situation was resolved. He said, "Every flush or running faucet /shower [adds] to the dirty water that is creeping up the hallway and into their rooms."

Because they were not officially on duty, it took plumbers a while to be on the scene. When they did arrive, however, they determined that once again the flooding resulted from a paper towel blockage in the sewage pipe.

Once the plumbers left, no custodial staff members came to clean up the area as they had on Sunday, forcing the residents living next to the flooded hallway to deal with the mess on their own. The residents did their best to clean as much as possible, using Lysol to disinfect the area and a mop that soaked up about three buckets of sewage water.

It was not until 1:30 a.m., after the residents had done the bulk of

see ***Major,*** *page 3*

PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

A sewage overflow caused by clogged paper towels rose to almost an inch high in Major.

Lighting Sufficient?

by Kate Moore '12
News Writer

Judging by the intense illumination of the chapel and Hamilton's well-spotlighted statue, it may come as a surprise that the facilities committee is taking action to improve the lighting situation around campus. Many students have expressed concern about poorly lit areas and want the spotlight to be better focused on their safety.

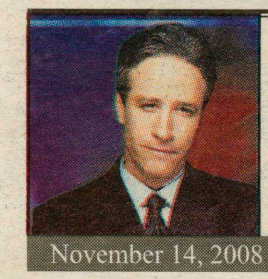
"There aren't many lights from Wertimer to behind Bristol, and you have to consider that there are three dorms down here, so that's a hundred people who have to walk up the hill," said Amanda Barnes '12.

Recently, members of the committee teamed up with Steve Bellona, Associate Vice President for Facilities and Planning, to tour the campus and look for problem spots.

see ***Lighting,*** *page 4*

PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

Lighting walkways on the Hill has been deemed both a safety and an aesthetic issue.



JON STEWART

see Page 3

Student Assembly Talks the CEC, Mayday and Funding Surplus

by Amanda Jordan '10
Student Assembly Correspondent

At the meeting on November 10, 2008, the Student Assembly discussed the Cultural Education Center, May Day, ideas for Dean Urgo on how to increase student-administrator communication, funding, and committee reports.

Cultural Education Center:

The SA unanimously passed a resolution requesting a broader campus discussion on the issue, suggesting that the center be housed in an existing building that is properly renovated, and stating that a new college administrator may not be necessary in the immediate future.

May Day:

For May Day, a big headliner band (possibly two) is being proposed. The concert will take place at the Stanley Theater in Utica, which seats around 4,000 people. Tickets will be sold for $20.00 each, but SA may subsidize this cost. Transportation to the theater will be provided. CAB will be in charge of choosing and arranging for the band to come on Friday night. On May Day , which is a Saturday, student bands will perform outside on a stage, weather permitting. The SA is planning to step in and help fund the costs for May Day.

Ideas for Dean Urgo:

Various ideas were suggested to increase student-administrator communication. Some of these ideas included: attending SA meetings, eating lunch or dinner in the dining halls (and approaching students), attending numerous lectures and sporting events, and going to the Pub to receive feedback from seniors who know the college well.

Funding:

This week, the SA allocated $970.99 in funding to Amnesty International and the Dance Team. Overall, the SA has spent $84,243.27 of the $140,000.00 allocated for this semester. SA is considering giving $7,000 to the Community Garden for upkeep and maintenance costs. The Community Garden was originally funded through President Stewart's discretionary spending. In addition, the survey sent out to students regarding spending priorities will close this Sunday. Some community members are upset about the SA's proposed spending decisions because we are in a time of financial crisis. More will be discussed about this issue at the next meeting.

Committee Reports:

The Food Committee announced that milkshakes are available at the Diner for $1.50. Also, a survey about cereal varieties and ice cream flavors will soon be sent out to students. The committee also reminded students to try to limit their removal of food from the dining halls.

The Facilities Committee reported that a member of the library staff will come speak to SA regarding improvements that could be made to the library.

The Social Traditions Committee discussed the Citrus Bowl, which will be held on December 5. Hamilton will be competing against Norwich University.

The Elections Committee announced that SA elections will be held on December 8 and December 9. Platforms and signature sheets are due by November 21 at noon for those interested in running for SA positions.

Students Upset Over Recent Incidents of Vehicular Vandalism

*see **Burglarized,** page 1*

nothing of value in his car and his car was not in good shape so he was "curious as to why [the perpetrator(s)] chose that one."

Apparently Campus Safety had been trying to get in touch with McNerney earlier in the day on Sunday by going to his dorm room, as the incident was already reported to Campus Safety. "Campus safety contacted the Kirkland Police Department when it happened and reviewed the video tape," stated McNerney.

Even though McNerney has no idea who could have done this to his car, talking with Campus Safety officers revealed that there has been a trend in what the perpetrators could be looking for: GPS devices. All the cars that have been broken into have had either suction cup marks on the interior of the windshield where a GPS device would have been or in McNerney's case, a radio that was misperceived as a GPS device.

This incident of vandalism is not the only one that has occurred on campus in the past few weeks. Another student's car was also broken into in much the same way as McNerney's car, except that her car had been rummaged through. Her GPS device was well hidden and therefore the perpetrators did not find it.

The Spectator was able to speak with Officer Kriz of the Krikland Police Department (KPD). There have been a total of five incidents that have occurred in the past few weeks. Of the three that were reported directly to Kriz, one incident was in Root Extension Lot and two were in Milbank Lot.

As of right now, "we do not have any proof of anything," states Kriz. But he went on to say that he has "seen similar situations in previous years." People would break into cars, smashing the driver's side window and stealing "GPS units, stereos; they are very picky," he stated. Other colleges, like Utica College and large parking lots in the area have been hit in much the same way.

Campus Safety and Kirkland Police Department speculated that the perpetrators are people from off campus, not Hamilton students. Additionally, Officer Kriz has stated that "campus safety has been increasing patrols recently," and has been looking through security tape from the cameras in the parking lots. The tapes are difficult to read, however, because there is insufficient light in the lots.

Another incident occurred in the Dunham parking lot where a student's car was keyed and three of his tires were slashed on Saturday, November 9. There is no evidence that this is a related incident to the previous five reported to the Kirkland Police.

An anonymous source also told *The Spectator* that on Tuesday night, November 11, campus safety had a confrontation in one of the parking lots with a suspicious car. Campus Safety chased after the car in their vehicle, but was unable to get them to stop. They did come away with a license plate, however. There is no confirmation that this unidentified car is connected with the vandalism incidents on campus as the investigation is ongoing.

Rolling Stone Editor Speaks

by Scott Bixby '11
News Editor

On Wednesday, Oct. 12, Hamilton hosted a lecture by Harper's and Rolling Stone contributing editor Jeff Sharlet. The lecture, titled "Sex, Power, and the Faith of Obama: How the Religious Right is Re-Inventing Itself for a New Day," was arranged by Visiting Associate Professor of Religious Studies Brent Plate, who introduced Sharlet by detailing his biography: a visiting research scholar at New York university's Center for Religion and Media, Sharlet is the author of The Family: The Secret Fundamentalism at the Heart of American Power.

Sharlet's lecture detailed the relationship between the news media and the faith of American politicians, specifically within the context of the past three presidential elections. He started by stating, "The day after the 2004 election was the best day in my life as a religion journalist." He continued, saying that while many in the United States, including his own publishers, believed that "old fundamentalism" was permanently removed from the political sphere, it was merely changing its tactics. Instead of fading away, "The evangelical and fundamentalist Christian movements became one of the most powerful voting blocks in the country."

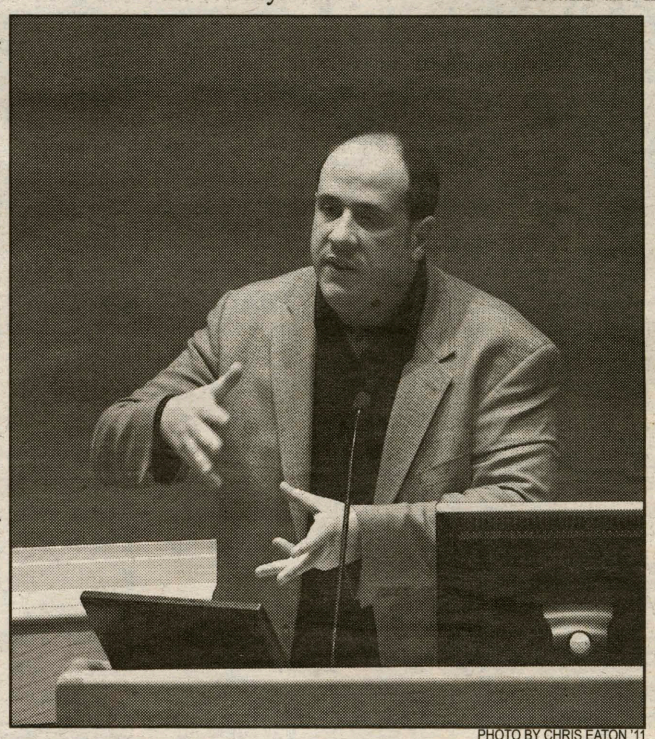


PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

Jeff Sharlet's lecture focused on the relationship among faith, politics and the media.

The media, Sharlet asserted, reacted to this by trying to create a "common narrative" when dealing with religion. Sharlet disagrees, however. "What I believe as a journalist is that everything is a narrative."

Much of Sharlet's lecture focused on the organization The Family, a powerful society that claims to be centered on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, most notable for hosting the annual National Prayer Breakfast.

In Sharlet's book, which details the history and dealings of the 70-year-old group, The Family is described as a shadowy organization with connections at the highest levels of government, which has "forged relationships between the U.S. government and some of the most oppressive regimes in the world."

Sen. Barack Obama's successful bid for the White House defeated a candidate that evangelicals, Sharlet asserted, "never truly thought to be one of their own." He continued, stating that a new movement will rise from the evangelical and fundamentalist community, united against "the archetype of 'the Gay Man,' much like it rose against the archetype of 'the Communist' in the 1950's."

Sharlet's book is now available in the Hamilton College bookstore.

Jon Stewart Arrives on the Hill to Give the 2008 Sacerdote Great Names Speaker Address

by Russ Doubleday '11
News Writer

Jon Stewart may be performing today for Hamilton College and the greater community, but anticipation and excitement have been building since the administration announced his performance in the beginning of September. Also, throughout the week, the College has been making physical preparations in the Field House, which has had an impact on varsity practices. Student excitement has been building since Stewart was revealed as this year's Great Names speaker. Last week, forty-four students, eleven from each class year, were chosen through a lottery to meet Stewart after his show. This further heightened the anticipation for the arrival of the popular and well-liked figure.

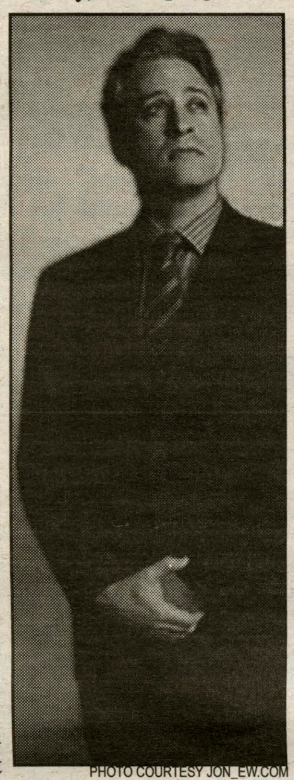


PHOTO COURTESY JON_EW.COM

"I was both surprised and very impressed that we could actually get someone both popular and influential to come here," said Zachary Haluza '11, a student who will get to meet Stewart. "I know we've had people such as Al Gore come here in the past, but since I'm a sophomore I was only around for Aretha Franklin last year."

Preparations have been in progress for his show for the past couple of days. Physical Plant started laying tarps in the back of the Field House Wednesday morning. Their work spread to the rest of the building after the basketball teams had practice early Thursday morning. From there, they laid tarps across the rest of the floor and began setting up chairs.

"For this event the stage has been moved farther back in the Field House to help us accommodate approximately 5700 attendees, which is about 700-800 more than we generally seat," explained Tony Poccia, Manager of Building Structure Trades at Physical Plant. "The sound people arrived [yesterday] and [began] their set-up which generally takes right up until showtime."

The show has affected both men's and women's basketball teams as well as men's and women's indoor track practices, both of which take place in the Field House. The back of the Field House also houses winter intramural games (besides ice hockey). These games will be back on schedule Saturday.

Similarly, it will take time for everything to be cleaned out of the Field House, and varsity practices and intramural games to begin again. "Breakdown of the set-up usually commences for the sound company right after the event and they are generally loaded out the same night," said Poccia. "Physical Plant will be in early Saturday morning to break down the stage, pick up the chairs and roll up the tarps." The Field House should be back to normal around mid-day on Saturday.

Major Residents Swamped

*from **Major,** page 1*

the cleaning, that a non-custodial physical plant employee showed up to clear away the rest of the water and sewage. According to Ed Neidhart, Manager of Technical Trades, Campus Safety had tried unsuccessfully to get in contact with the custodian on call, and said that "custodial staff would have usually, without question, shown up." Travis Hill, director of Residential Life, said that work is being done to prevent something like this from happening again.

Custodians did come in at 6:30 a.m. the next morning to begin the cleaning process. No permanent damage seems to have been done to the hallway or the rooms affected by the flooding.

Neidhart said that there was no reason paper towels should have been in the drain, particularly on Monday night, only one day after plumbers had cleared out the pipe. In an e-mail to the residents of Major, Southside Area Director Pat Marino said that plumbers have removed paper towels from Major's sewage lines on five separate occasions this year. He then said, "This leads us to believe that someone is intentionally taking paper towels from the dispensers and flushing them down the toilet in large quantities to cause the flooding." If the person responsible is discovered, he said, "we will treat their actions as malicious damage."

The e-mail went on to urge anyone with information to contact Residential Life, and that Physical Plant will remove paper towels from the building if this problem continues.

Neidhart expressed sympathy for the students who have had to deal with the plumbing disasters, but also added, "My guys are tired of it too."

Custodian Comes to Student's Door

*from, **Custodian,** page 1*

student quickly shut her door and contacted Campus Safety, which dispatched an officer to the dormitory.

"I filed an unofficial report, just telling them what happened. They said that they would contact me later to make an official report, but they never did... They said it might have something to do with the [Milbank intruder incident], which I completely don't think it did."

Director of Campus Safety Fran Manfredo acknowledged that he was aware of the incident, but failed to provide a statement after repeated requests from *The Spectator*.

Director of Human Resources Stephen Stemkoski was more forthcoming. In an e-mail to *The Spectator*, Stemkoski stated, "The person in question was a full-time employee and is no longer working at the College. College guidelines limit the hours to which employees have access to buildings. We consider the matter closed."

The student asserted that she never felt in any danger and stressed the fact that the custodian never attempted to touch her or violate her personal space. She did, however, feel incredibly uncomfortable. "He just made a really poor decision that was incredibly inappropriate.

"I think that the most disturbing part is that he would have access to the building at 2 a.m. My friends can't get in at 2 in the morning, but a custodian can? He has no reason to be there."

The student also expressed frustration with Campus Safety's response. "When I called them they said that they would call me back to file an official report. They never did." This echoes similar concerns held by Joanna Myers '09, a student who was accosted by an intruder over Fall Break, who felt that she was not kept up to date on the ongoing investigation. That incident remains unsolved.

The Official SA CEC Resolution Document

A Resolution Regarding the Creation of a Cultural Education Center

The Central Council of the Student Assembly Hereby Resolves:
The appropriate campus offices and administrators should facilitate a broader campus discussion regarding the creation of a Cultural Education Center in an effort to design and establish such a Cultural Education Center.

The Central Council of the Student Assembly Further Resolves:
The College could house the Cultural Education Center in an existing building if the building is appropriately renovated.

The Central Council of the Student Assembly Further Resolves:
Hiring a new College administrator to serve as the director of such a Cultural Education Center may not be necessary in the immediate future, and the College should focus on increasing collaboration between existing groups and offices in the short-term.

Rationale and Further Delineation of the Assembly's Views:

A Cultural Education Center (CEC) will provide a physical forum for discussing diversity (racial, cultural, sexual, et cetera) and broader issues surrounding diversity. A CEC will, by its very nature, provide a space in which diverse groups of students feel both safe and welcome. Accordingly, creating a CEC will highlight the College's respect for and dedication to diversity, will facilitate discussions regarding diversity, and will foster a College community that is more welcoming to both present and future students of all backgrounds.

As the "Motion from Faculty regarding Establishing a Cultural Education Center" (a faculty motion approved by a vote of 85 to 7 on November 4th, 2008) stated, the establishment of a CEC has been a "long-standing desire of our students of color." As the same faculty motion further expressed, given acknowledged demographic trends, the establishment of a CEC "appears now to be in the best interest of Hamilton as it re-positions itself to draw students" from an increasingly diverse applicant pool.

Since it appears almost certain that the renovation of ELS will render one or more current buildings on campus (i.e.: the Bristol Center, Campus Safety, the Health Center, and/or the Career Center) unoccupied, one of the aforementioned buildings could house the CEC after the completion of the ELS renovation. However, if the College does house the CEC in an existing building, the College will almost certainly need to renovate the building in order to create facilities that are appropriate for a CEC.

Hiring a new College administrator to serve as the director of the CEC is not necessary in the immediate future, and may not be necessary in the longer term either. Multiple offices and organizations already support cultural and diversity programming. These offices and organizations include, but are not limited to, the Associate Dean of Students for Diversity and Accessibility, the Associate Dean of Faculty for Diverse Initiatives, the Student Assembly's Diversity and Accessibility Committee, and various Multicultural Student Organizations. Plans for a CEC should include a plan for how existing offices and organizations can coordinate programming (perhaps via committee, a rotating coordinator position, or a student intern position) without the College hiring a new administrator to serve as CEC director.

Unanimously approved by the Central Council on November 10th, 2008

SJI Brings in CEC Expert from Penn State University

by Haley Riemer-Peltz '12
News Writer

The Social Justice Initiative held a meeting in the Womyn's Center on Tuesday, November 11 regarding the possibility of a Cultural Education Center (CEC) on campus. Dr. Toby Jenkins, the director of the Paul Robeson Cultural Center at Pennsylvania State University, led the discussion by presenting the programs used at Penn State.

"It's important to not be limited in how we look at types of cultural education centers," stated Jenkins. A good model for a CEC does not necessarily have to come from another small, liberal arts school, he said.

SJI has been lobbying to build a CEC since last fall. They have faced many obstacles, such as the challenge of resourcing the center, getting the administration's support and finding a space.

Around 20 people, students and faculty, discussed the topic in the Womyn's Center. They began by identifying the problems going on at Hamilton. "It's easy for institutions to say they're encouraging diversity awareness when they're actually just giving money to student leaders of groups," Jenkins remarked. SJI members, many of whom are student leaders of various other groups on campus, agreed with Jenkins, expressing the frustration of receiving only a budget in place of support from the administration.

Unlike other student organications, many of the groups involved with social activism on campus, such as SJI and the Womyn's Center, are under the Dean of Diversity and Accessibility. Students at the meeting commented on a separation between the administration and the students, making it difficult to collaborate. The group discussed the importance of transforming the common idea of what an administrator is.

Jenkins presented the CEC strategy used at Penn State. The plan consists of five main parts: Cultural Education Programming, Cultural Development Programming, Cultural Engagement Programming, Cultural Environment Enhancement, and Cultural Community Creation.

The Cultural Education Programming involves academic initiatives that integrate types of interdisciplinary study into creative co-curricular programs. These programs provide the campus with the chance to learn outside of the classroom.

One of the successful programs used is called the "Tunnel of Oppression," which is a blank, multi-purpose room sectioned off into smaller rooms and transformed into a museum. Each room covers a different issue of oppression—such as sexuality, government, gender, race, education, and wealth. Students and teachers work together with a budget of about $7,000 to $8,000. This project is intended to give people a visual and physical experience of oppression.

During and after the presentation participants discussed how programs from Penn State could be modified and brought to Hamilton. A main issue facing SJI is whether existing resources can be leveraged, realigned, and built upon to create a major CEC on campus.

"The presentation was useful for SJI as we plan for our next steps towards a CEC," commented SJI member Amy Tannenbaum '10. "Our vision for programming may differ from that of Penn State's center, due to Hamilton being such a different campus, but overall the information in Ms. Jenkins' presentation will be very useful for SJI in our continuing conversations. We're glad to have a new perspective and will certainly consider Ms. Jenkins' information as we move forward," she continued.

The group also discussed their overall frustration with their experience of the administration, contending that College officials have not prioritized diversity awareness on campus. Some members pointed out that several of the diversity-themed events and activities listed on the Hamilton website either have not happened for several years, or do not even exist. Students and faculty alike who were present at the meeting agreed that this embarrassing flaw on the website further proves the need for a CEC on campus.

SA Addresses Campus Lighting

*from **Lighting**, page 1*

"There were a few quads and areas that we felt could use an extra light," said Andrew Boddorff '10, co-chair of the facilities committee.

ELS proved to be a major point of concern, but that project will be postponed until after construction on the building has been completed.

Attempts to improve lighting around campus are an important measure to improve campus safety. Last semester, the committee did a similar walk-around inspecting blue lights, which can be used to call for help in dangerous or emergency situations. Unfortunately, these lights cost up to $10,000, so it is unlikely that more will be added very soon. Concerns involving traditional lighting should be easier to solve, and Boddorff says the requests in the most recent report were well received by Bellona.

The committee filled out a site plan in which burned out lights were identified. According to Bellona, all reports have been addressed. They are also exploring the possibility of installing additional lighting.

"If a campus is not well lit, it can cause serious safety issues that we are trying to avoid here at Hamilton. My goal is to make sure every student feels comfortable at any time, anywhere on campus, and lighting is a big part of that safety," said Boddorff.

Boddorff hopes that in the future, light inspection will be performed every semester.

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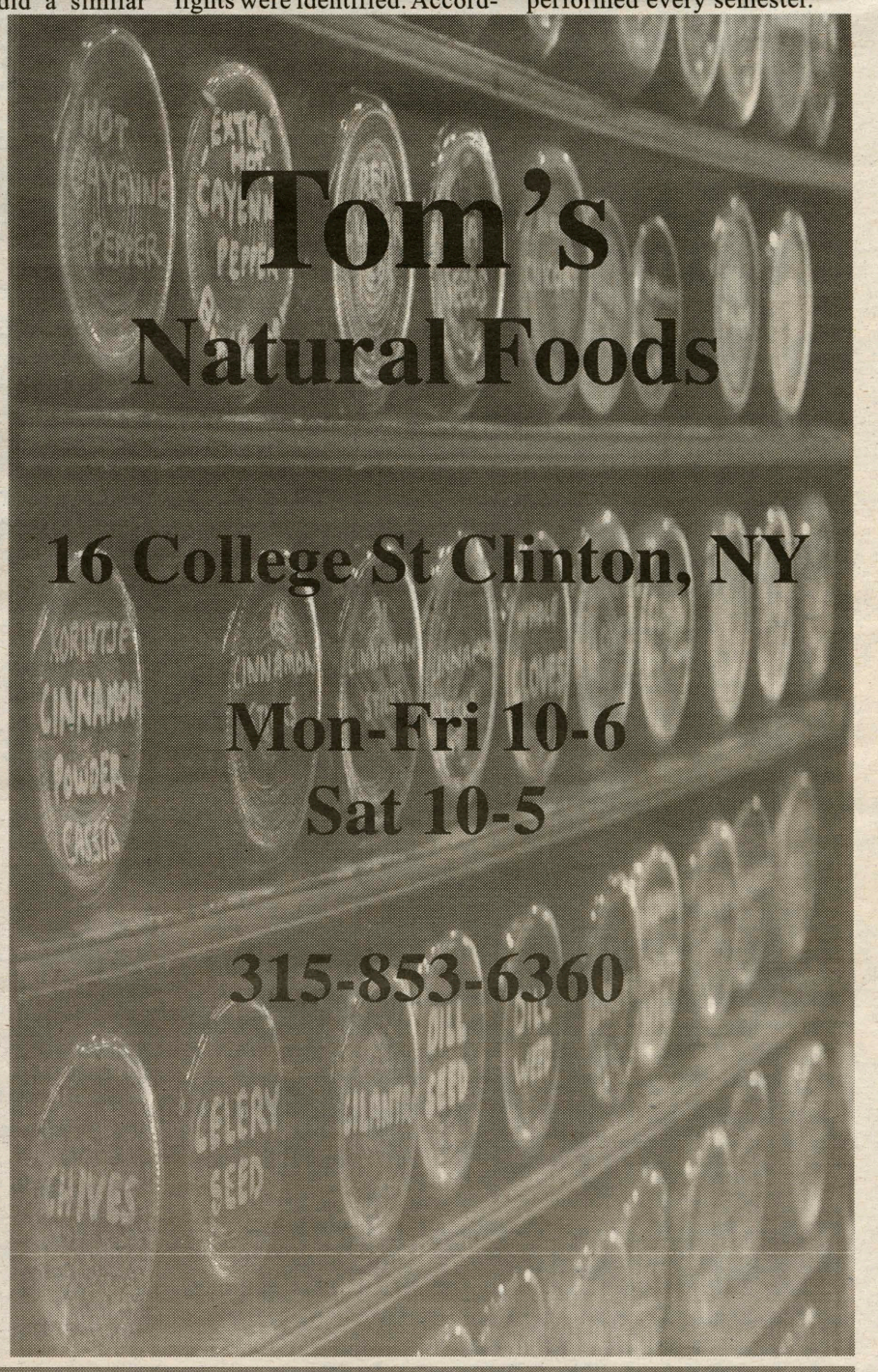

THE SPECTATOR

SA: No to Internet Laundry Service, Yes to Security

The Spectator would first like to acknowledge the effort made by Student Assembly to utilize their extra funds in the best interests of Hamilton's students. Allowing students to vote in a democratic process is commendable. Given the climate on campus, however, we believe that an effort made towards increasing safety on campus is more beneficial than simply adding more beautification oriented projects to the docket.

This semester marked the grand opening of the new Kirner-Johnson addition, which is a striking and functional addition to the quality of life for the Hamilton community. This past week, a helicopter was used in an effort to dry off and stabilize the condition of a soggy Steuben field with the hopes of the football team and their fans being able to enjoy the last home game of the season on campus instead of Rome. Younger students also have reason to be excited about the remarkable blueprints for the renovation of ELS, which will include a third coffee shop, a two story bookstore, a state of the art radio station, and a wealth of other new haunts for students to utilize, both academically and otherwise. These projects, among others, are all ways in which the students ought to recognize the amount of thought, money, and time that is being dedicated to making life on the Hill a comfortable and enjoyable experience.

While all of these efforts are fantastic ways to increase morale and strengthen our education, there is a concern that we feel could be addressed in a more thorough manner: safety. Student Assembly has given us the unique opportunity to help decide where the extra funds in their budget should be allocated. As a staff, The Spectator would like to formally endorse those plans geared towards the safety of students. Some examples given by Student Assembly include increasing the visibility of the Bundy crosswalk, and repairing the surface of the Martin's Way Bridge to make it less slippery. We feel both of these efforts are more useful sources of funding than, for example, an internet laundry system, new TVs and pool tables, or expending energy to keep the flag lit overnight.

The Spectator spoke to students themselves, and it seems the pulse of the "Other" category given in the Student Assembly survey lends itself perfectly towards suggesting more safety precautions our money might be better spent on. After the e-mail sent by Campus Safety Director Francis Manfredo reporting the break-ins in the parking lots, more robberies have been reported. Several more students' cars have been keyed, broken into, or had their windows smashed, and some are now missing items *(see page 1)*. Another car's tires have been viciously slashed. As *The Spectator* has previously reported, despite the card-entry system in dorms to ensure safety, women, both this academic year and last, have been terrorized in their own rooms by intruders. More recently, another woman was verbally harassed late at night by her custodian, who was intoxicated *(see page 1)*. These types of security breaches are unprecedented, and unacceptable. We call on Student Assembly to start considering even more practical uses of their money: there are countless pathways on campus without sufficient lighting, and there is damning evidence to suggest our parking lots are not monitored closely enough. One student we spoke with even suggested peep holes in dorm doors, so that unwanted visitors can be properly identified before a student chooses to answer a knock.

SA is an organization with funds to allocate by the students, for the students, and *The Spectator* (Hamilton's student-run newspaper) endorses the proposition that safety is a central student concern. Without this fundamental level of personal security for Hamilton students, all of our efforts in beautifying the campus will be overlooked, and underappreciated.

THE SPECTATOR

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Letters to the Editor Policy

***THE SPECTATOR'S* LETTER TO THE EDITOR SECTION IS DESIGNED TO BE A FORUM FOR THE ENTIRE HAMILTON COMMUNITY TO DISCUSS AND DEBATE CAMPUS, LOCAL, NATIONAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES. PIECES PUBLISHED IN THE SECTION EXPRESS THE OPINION OF THE INDIVIDUAL WRITERS, AND ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE OPINIONS OF *THE SPECTATOR*, ITS EDITORS, OR THE MEDIA BOARD. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ARE WELCOME FROM ALL STUDENTS, ALUMNI/AE, FACULTY, FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE AND HAMILTON COMMUNITY MEMBERS. NEVERTHELESS, *THE SPECTATOR* HAS THE FOLLOWING POLICIES FOR SUBMISSION:**

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. Submissions can be sent by email to spec@hamilton.edu or to the I&I editor (tyarnell@hamilton or ktummare@hamilton.edu). The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 650 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* will not edit letters for misspelling, poor grammar or diction.
5. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
6. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

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Weekend Dining at McEwen

Closing McEwen remains inconvenient but practical

by Allison Eck '12
Insights and Ideas Writer

A typical college student will sleep until approximately 11 a.m. on a Sunday morning. Sometimes even later, and the poor snooze button suffers from having been smacked multiple times. Said college student will then realize that half the day is gone and a pile of homework awaits him. Therefore, this same college student is devastated when it dawns upon him that the only way to assuage his rumbling stomach is to hike all the way over to Commons from the dark side. McEwen, he sadly recalls, is not open today.

PHOTO BY THOMAS YARNELL '10

This kind of scenario usually ends up one of two ways – either the student decides to walk to Commons and surrender a bit of his day, or, more often, the student frantically abandons the "most important meal of the day" to plant himself in KJ to catch up on the work he put off because he was having fun yesterday.

The issue of McEwen's not being open on weekends is mainly a source of bitter frustration amongst dark-siders, but as a light-sider, I can still understand why this situation may not be convenient. McEwen has certain advantages over Commons and the Diner. Although I am not a vegetarian, it is apparent that McEwen offers many more vegetarian and vegan options than those of Commons or the Diner.

Amanda Barnes '12 said, "This situation severely limits those options that McEwen has. Like for vegetarians, it's a bad option because the food at Commons involves almost all meat."

Some students who routinely visit the dark side desire more convenience in their busy lives. For example, Daniel Feinberg '12 noted, "I go running in the Glen on weekend mornings and usually I end up on the dark side and I'd like to eat at McEwen then because I'm right near it."

On the other hand, there are usually enough options for students of any dietary habit to eat well. Would there be any possible repercussions if McEwen was reopened?

Irene Cornish, Director of Auxiliary Services for Bon Appétit, said that approximately six years ago, the College asked Bon Appétit to offer suggestions as to how to reduce overhead. The primary concern was that if the costs of dining hall services increased, as they threatened to, meal plan costs would have to compensate for that increase. In addition, the endowment during the first years of the 21st century was suffering in the markets, and the goal was to reduce college expenses by $1 million. One measure proposed was to close McEwen on weekends.

"The number of students using McEwen on weekends was low and Bon Appétit was confident that Commons could handle all of the meals on the weekends," Cornish said. "At the time, the closing presented a significant savings. The decision was made to close McEwen on weekends. As a result, the board increases that year were less than they would have been."

But these issues were addressed six years ago, and times have changed, right?

"In 2007, Bon Appétit was asked to provide an estimated cost for reopening McEwen on weekends," Cornish noted. "At that time, the cost was $70,000 to keep the dining hall open on weekends during the school year." Cornish mentioned that Karen Leach, Vice President of Administration and Finance, had requested the estimate in response to inquiries from the Student Assembly, which discussed the issue and determined that McEwen should remain closed on weekends.

Cornish offered several justifications beyond cost. First, attendance rates were usually quite low when McEwen had been open. Second, because a reopening would affect only a small proportion of students, the College had to weigh student needs against energy savings.

"The College is committed to the climate initiative and making efforts to conserve resources and energy wherever feasible," she remarked. "From an environmental perspective, it makes sense to consolidate the weekend dining to a single dining hall as long as the number of diners doesn't exceed the capacity in that one dining hall."

It seems as if the only alternative to the situation would be to sacrifice student activity funding. "Changes to the current dining configuration are always possible," Cornish said. It's up to us to decide how we want to allocate our money. But it seems to me that we cannot simultaneously complain about the rising cost of tuition, advocate environmental activism, and beg for McEwen's weekend reopening at the same time.

"Honestly, I don't like McEwen's food," said Jennifer Hightower '12. "But I realize that there are many people on campus who do, and I really think that these people should be able to choose what they want to eat because it's so important."

On a final note, Cornish wishes to address students interested in this dilemma.

"Pat Raynard, the general manager of Bon Appétit, and I always welcome student comments, suggestions, concerns regarding the food service program at Hamilton," she said. "Students should never hesitate to contact us. If students are interested in being involved with the student food committee, they should contact the Student Assembly."

Palin's Nomination Equally Historic

by John Molfetas '09
Insights and Ideas Contributor

This Presidential Election has been a historic one. The election of Barack Obama has signaled the beginning of a new era of hope and change; confirming that any person from any background, ethnicity or socio-economic group can rise to the highest office of the nation. This outstanding victory has also re-affirmed that the racial bigotry that once soured this country is firmly behind us and that the race of a candidate does not really matter.

It is a moment of joy and pride for all Americans, particularly for African Americans who have been the subject of slavery, violence, subjugation and intolerance for so many generations. The election was also extremely important because 24 years after the Democrats nominated Geraldine Ferraro as their Vice-Presidential candidate, the Republicans nominated Sarah Palin, Governor of Alaska, for the same spot.

Even though I do not agree with Palin on every single issue, the way she was treated by the media and the ad-hominem attacks that were directed against her confirmed the lack of political culture. The media elite, which runs the political show, ridiculed, vehemently criticized and painted Palin as an incompetent idiot. Letterman, SNL, and Hollywood all united in attacking her personally. Not even her family escaped the mudslinging.

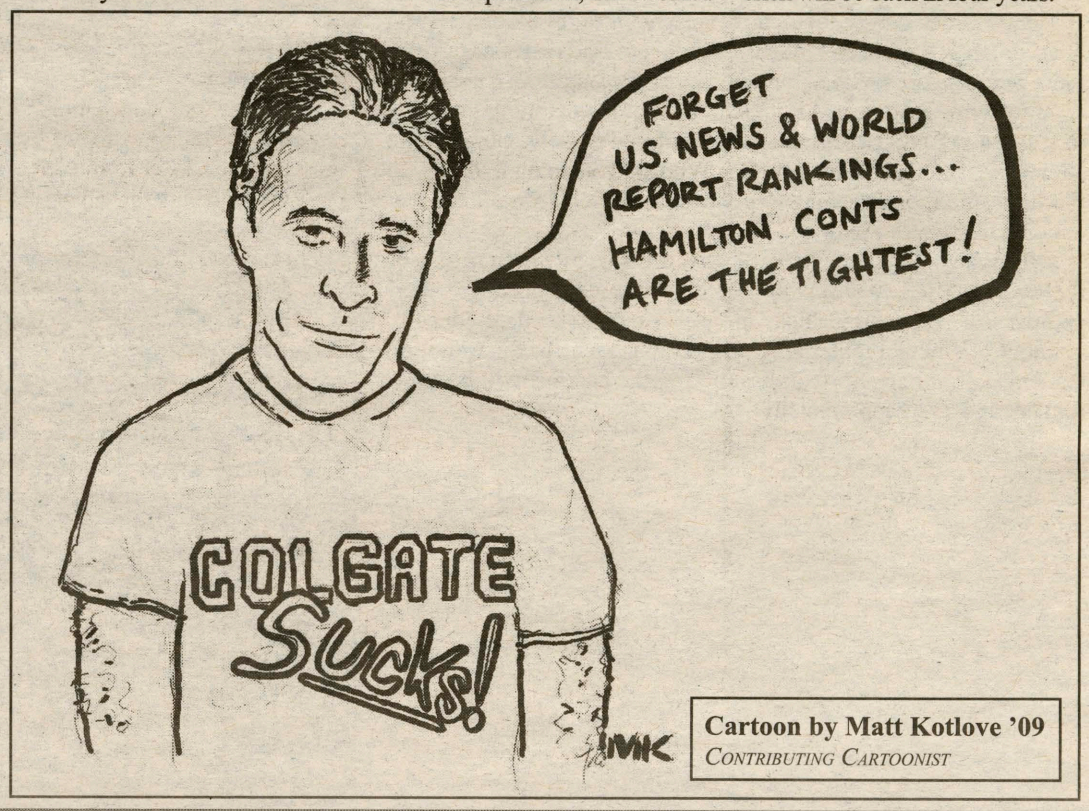
These smear tactics were employed because Palin stands out from most within the DC establishment. Like most Americans, she grew up in a working class family; her father was a teacher, she attended public school, played for the basketball team and was an ordinary gal. She did not attend an elite private school, did not go to an Ivy League school and was not cushioned by a wealthy background.

As a politician, she worked her way up from being a mayor of a small town to becoming the most popular governor in the country with a ninety percent approval rating. In politics, she was a true maverick: taking on her own political party, defeating the corrupt political establishment of Alaska, cutting waste and minimizing government expenditures. Apparently, the media thinks that being from a small town is laughable and social mobility is threatening.

Entrenched elites within the Republican and the Democratic Parties despised her and characterized her as incompetent because she was an example of social mobility and because she represented the average American woman. For elites, social mobility is disturbing. What is more frightening for the establishment is if its opponent is a popular, amiable, conservative woman. The personal attacks against Palin indicate that the establishment has lost the argumentative battle centered on the political issues.

Elected officials do not necessarily have to be elite-educated, Ph.D. holders, knowledgeable of all the issues, nor need to know whether Africa is a country or a continent. Contrary to public opinion, being ordinary citizens helps them understand society and its internal workings. If they are part of society, then it is more likely that they will want to see realistic solutions for the society's problems. Palin, like Obama, understood what it meant to be growing up in an ordinary family making ends meet. The establishment, however, feared that Palin would be able to reform not only Alaska, but completely revolutionize the American political process.

Palin's nomination is equally historic to Obama's because it was the first time that a woman from a humble background was placed on a major party ticket with a tangible chance of holding the supreme office. We must assume that this maverick will be back in four years.



Cartoon by Matt Kotlove '09
Contributing Cartoonist

Ask Mister Morals

Warns against drinking away your sorrows and petty theft

My girlfriend of two years recently broke up with me. I subsequently drank myself into a semi-serious medical condition which is still sorting itself out. What should I do now?

Your top priority should be treating your condition; you do not want it to develop into anything more serious. Additionally, health problems will only compound the pain you are experiencing as a result of your breakup.

Breakups are painful, and while it is tempting to try and forget your problems through binge drinking or "rebound" hookups, neither of these solutions address the root cause of your unhappiness. In fact, these options are counter-productive, since you will have to deal with a bad hangover (not to mention "semi-serious medical conditions") or an awkward morning-after in addition to your breakup. Keep your situation in perspective; you will get over this. In the meanwhile, stay busy and spend as much time as you can with your friends to avoid dwelling on your breakup and feeling sorry for yourself. Some days will be harder than others, but if you make a conscious effort to move forward, your emotional recovery will be expedited.

I haven't bought laundry detergent this semester because I just use one of the eight jumbo-sized detergent bottles lying around in my dorm's laundry room. Am I terrible person, or are people who leave their belongings unattended just asking for it?

It is never moral to steal something simply because you don't feel like paying for it. Furthermore, your suggestion that the other students who leave their detergent in the laundry room are "just asking for it," opens you up to the slippery slope argument. If a student who leaves his laundry detergent out is "just asking for it," then isn't a student who doesn't lock his door "just asking" for his laptop to be stolen from his room? One of the reasons I think the administration's response to the recent burglary into Milbank provoked such a strong response from the Womyn's Center was that there was an underlying message that girls who don't lock their doors are "just asking" for trouble. The slippery slope response has obvious limitations, mainly that it doesn't account for human judgment (i.e. people are more adverse to committing rape than stealing laundry detergent) but it's something to consider nonetheless.

What I find more troubling than your pilfering is the manner in which you posed your question to me. Your question (so far as I can tell) contains two logical fallacies. The first fallacy is known as "avoiding the question," basically, you are avoiding the fact that you are engaging in petty theft by arguing other people shouldn't be so naïve about the presence of, well, petty thieves. Your second fallacy is called an "appeal to pity." You are making the observer (me) feel bad about judging you by suggesting your actions make you a "terrible" person. There are greater injustices in the world than stealing someone else's laundry detergent, but that alone does not excuse your actions.

(Disclaimer: I don't know that much about logical fallacies. In fact, I based my answer on the information contained in Wikipedia's "Begging the Question" and "Appeal to Pity" pages. I would appreciate if a philosophy major/minor would write me and let me know a better place to look this stuff up.)

Mr. Morals is a column dedicated to solving the ethical dilemmas of Hamilton students. To submit a question to Mr. Morals, e-mail avorchhe@hamilton.edu.

Thumbs up

Sorry I couldn't make your classes on Monday professors, but my registration time was 9, 10, 11 and 2:30 respectively.

Whoever decided to put Cinnamon Toast Crunch in Commons should be the next Great Names speaker.

Senior prom night at the Pub: Maybe this time around I won't black out and throw up on the Prom Queen, because I don't think there's going to be a Prom Queen.

The new Martin's Way cat: Let's try and not scare this one away by cutting its balls off.

Thanksgiving Break: Finally all the freshmen girls are going to go home and break up with their high school boyfriends for good.

Thumbs down

By the way faculty, the class of '09 has not forgotten about that monumental facial that was the first year forum or that stinging mushroom stamp session that was the sophomore seminar.

Quidditch at Hamilton: If you catch the golden snitch do you get laid?...no?...just points? Yeah...awesome.

Feminists showing cleavage: Who are you doing it for, yourself?

Juicy Campus: I'm fully against this site unless my name enters the discussion for most girth within the next three days.

Who Cares?

Due to the recent wave of criminal activity on campus, we, the writers of Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down, enact the following policies effective immediately:

1. No more than two gingers may congregate within 20 square feet of each other for the rest of the semester. If more than two gingers happen to be in a study group, they must receive a letter from their professor agreeing that all of their possessions are subject to seizure if any nefarious activity is suspected.
2. Capoeira must be disbanded immediately, and all of their records, documents, and stupid little instruments must be burned. Anyone caught cartwheeling or dance-fighting will be stuffed with cocaine and released into an AD/ATX mixer.
3. The Ping Pong Club is forbidden from using computers, ping pong balls, and paddles.

by Steve Allinger '09, Jason Brown '09, Anthony DelConte '10 & Matt Fellows '09

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

During Family Weekend, I witnessed what I considered to be one of the most misogynistic Buffers a cappella concerts performed thus far. I was so embarrassed that not only my fellow classmates, but also my family and friends had to bear witness to them.

On the Friday and Saturday of Family Weekend, the Buffers went so far as to make such sexist comments as "If I were not a Buffer, a freshman's pussy I would be," and so forth. One had only to glance around the Chapel to observe the look of shock on the parents' faces—was this the kind of male student body their daughters were being exposed to at Hamilton? Not only were the Buffers insensitive to students and parents, but their acts were also completely inappropriate for children.

After the Friday concert, my friend's six-year-old brother asked me to explain the significance of certain sexual comments the Buffers had made. It was as if the Buffers had missed the memo that this was Family Weekend. The disappointing part, however, is that they got the memo. They just chose to dismiss it.

I'm a senior and four-year member of Tumbling After, so the edginess of the "If I were not a Buffer" statements came as no surprise. What surprised and deeply disturbed me, however, was the degree to which their edginess had turned to extreme crudeness and maliciousness. When I was a freshman, the Buffers' statements were shocking, but not offensive enough to keep me from staying around to hear them sing. At that time, they targeted a broader range of topics, some of which were goofy and nonsensical and really made me laugh.

During the more recent Family Weekend concert, however, the Buffers' "If I were not a Buffer" statements were met with total silence. The Buffers had targeted primarily the sexuality of freshmen females, and I, among many audience members, took serious offense. Many of us left the Chapel immediately. We were willing to listen to music, not misogynistic and debasing "jokes."

Not only do the Buffers' "If I were not a Buffer" now target primarily females, especially those who are freshmen and in sororities, but they also continue to target the other a cappella groups: Hamiltones, Duelly Noted, Tumbling After, and Special K.

Is that necessary? What happened to camaraderie? Aren't we all part of the same a cappella community?

I was particularly disappointed to think that fellow members of my senior class who were members of the Buffers had actually condoned that kind of behavior. How could the seniors, in fact, be the very ones to make the "pussy" jokes, among others? I could not help but start seeing the Buffers' misogynistic "If I were not a Buffer" statements and continued disrespect for the members of other a cappella groups as a reflection of them as individuals.

For those members of the Buffers who have been silently disapproving of the choices their fellow members have made, I hope they will break that silence soon and alert their group that they are losing their audience fast. The Buffers need to rethink the definition of "entertainment" and consider just sticking to the music.

-Chelsea Mann '09

To the Editor,

I would like to congratulate the newly formed CEC but advise them to work within the traditions of Hamilton and not attack them. The Alumni magazine tells me that Hamilton never leaves you, and in my experience that is true. So even though I have relocated to the San Francisco Bay Area in California, I still think of Hamilton and go to Hamilton events (including ones hosted by the great and newly formed Bay Area Alliance). I lived in Clinton for eight years (I graduated on time but spent high school there, and attended Hamilton events and even participated in a Hamilton club), so I know the college well. I try to keep up with the (online version of) Spectator and my imagination gives me a fuzzy image of what's going on, even though I unfortunately cannot experience it directly.

Hamilton has a long diverse history which it should embrace, but Hamilton community members shouldn't waste their valuable time arguing with each other about disagreements. They should be finding common ground with one another. Thus I would encourage the CEC to pursue the following:

1) Recruit Native Americans to attend Hamilton. I believe this is something young, multicultural students could do better than the Hamilton adminstration. Hamilton was first built by Samuel Kirkland to educate Native Americans.
2) Figure out a way to get a DNA test on Alexander Hamilton. As a student I wrote an article investigating whether Hamilton was partly of African descent.
3) Include European culture in the CEC. Be as sure to make distinctions between different European cultures as you are to make distinctions between the cultures of any other "race".
4) Give focus (but not exclusive focus) to local cultures.
5) Examine the effects of science upon culture.

I hope Hamiltonians agree with this. Maybe somebody else has better suggestions than me, but like I said, let's try to keep the discussion civil.

-Robin Gane-McCalla '07

Amnesty International Presents "Benefit For Zimbabwe"

By Maura Donovan '09
Features Writer

As I started my semester long internship in Johannesburg South Africa, I was more nervous than I could have ever imagined. I was chosen to be the regional civil society intern at the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition. However, all I knew about Zimbabwe was that it was north of South Africa; I didn't know who Robert Mugabe was or that the majority of Zimbabweans couldn't find food to buy, even if they had the money. On the first day I learned more about Zimbabwean politics than I could ever have imagined. All of my coworkers were immigrants, some had even been granted political asylum and many shared their heart-wrenching stories of the Zimbabwean plight with me. After a few weeks, I saw one of my coworkers packing up a box of typical food items and some bath soap. I asked her about it and she said it was the things her family couldn't get in Zimbabwe. She told me about the busloads of Zimbabweans who had to take the twelve hour ride from the nation's capital, Harare, to South Africa to fill up on food staples because nothing was available for them at home. The economy was experiencing hyperinflation, around 11,000,000% during the time I was in South Africa. Zimbabwe's President, Robert Mugabe, came to power in 1980 when the country won its independence. He has led a dictator-style government ever since, with increasing corruption and brutality over the past ten years. His party, ZANU-PF, was the clear victor of the revolution and today almost all of the country's resources are in its hands. It was clear to me, even in my first month of learning about these issues, that although the world refused to admit that there was anything resembling a crisis in Zimbabwe, the majority of its citizens were living like refugees.

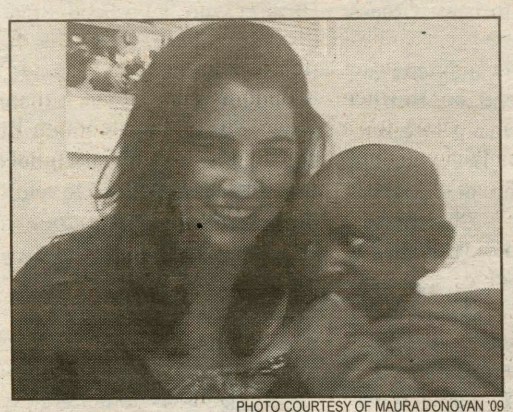


PHOTO COURTESY OF MAURA DONOVAN '09

Maura Donovan '09 volunteered at the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition.

For five months in South Africa I became immersed in the Crisis Coalition and committed to its struggle. Since I left last November, I watched with disbelief the horrors of the June 2008 election violence, during which ZANU-PF used political intimidation and torture to scare the opposition, even causing Movement for Democratic Change leader, Morgan Tsvangirai, to drop out of the Presidential race for fear of his life. The whole time I continuously checked my e-mail, hoping to find word from my former coworkers, that they were alright. The world finally woke up during this period of violence and saw that Mugabe and his party were committing intolerable crimes. I protested with many others in front of the Zimbabwean embassy in D.C. I wrote to former South African President Thabo Mbeki to urge him to continue mediation. Back at Hamilton, however, the rush of senior year has left time only to skim the BBC for Zimbabwean news. Yet, when I hear of violence breaking out in Harare, I can't help but picture my boss' two children or the hundreds of Zimbabweans who take the bus from Harare to Joburg just to buy bread. This is why I've helped the rest of the Hamilton's Amnesty International to put on the upcoming benefit concert. Campus acoustic artists such as Eric Thomas, Josh Hicks, Alyssa White, The Finger Puppets, Deborah Barany, Ben Wind and Dan Feinburg, as well as Jeb Escalator & Co., Tumbling After and Special K, are all coming together Tuesday night to help raise money. All proceeds will go to the Elias Fund, started by Chad Urmston of State Radio, which works with Zimbabwean youths through education and community development. I hope that everyone can stop by for a few tunes and some coffee and donate a few bucks, learn some more about Zimbabwe and write a letter conveying your outrage. I'm not sure my letters will convince Mugabe to step down or that my money will turn the Zimbabwean economy around. However, if it helps even three Zimbabwean children eat or reminds Mugabe that the world is watching, there will be hope for the country's future.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MAURA DONOVAN

Protestors in front of Zimbabwean embassy decried political and social injustices.

Amnesty International Presents:

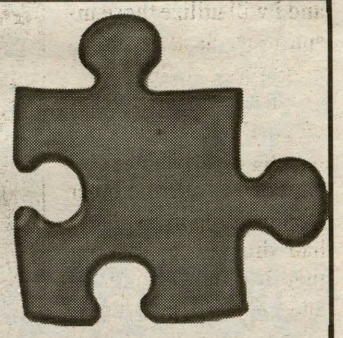
Benefit for Zimbabwe
Featuring Hamilton College Acoustic Musicians, Spoken Word Artists and A Capella groups.

Tuesday, November 18th, 2008
7-10 pm Events Barn

Proceeds go to the Elias Fund
(www.eliasfund.org)

got a hobby?
WRITE FOR FEATURES
e-mail LMOON and ADRAGAN

Logic Puzzle #2



The Puzzle

Thanksgiving is coming. Quadmates Judith, Penelope, Ruth, and Virginia are all driving home separately. Willard has come to their dorm room to say goodbye. He asks, "How long do you each have to drive to get home?" The women reply as follows:
We each have a different whole number of hours to drive.
The sum of these four numbers is less than eighteen.
The product of these numbers is our dorm room number.
Judith has the shortest drive, followed by Penelope, Ruth and Virginia, in that order.
Willard thinks for a little while, and scribbles some notes on a pad, but can not determine the four numbers. He asks whether any one of the women has to drive just one hour to get home.
The women answer him, and he immediately knows the four numbers.

Questions

1. How long does each woman have to drive to get home?
2. What is the women's dorm room number?
Solutions must contain an explanation!

Rules

Solutions may be sent to puzzle@hamilton.edu
Or, via campus mail, to Russell Marcus, Philosophy Department.
Make sure to include your contact information with your solution.
The Puzzler will choose the best solution.
In the case of several best solutions, a winner will be chosen at random from among them.
Anyone may play the puzzle, but only current Hamilton College students may win prizes.
If the winner of the puzzle is not a Hamilton College student, a secondary winner may be chosen.

Prizes

Prize winners will receive a t-shirt or mug from Lulasail, home of the best philosophy t-shirts on the web, or from *The Unemployed Philosopher's Guild*, which also has a wide range of philosophy paraphenalia.

The Deadline for Puzzle #2 is Tuesday, November 18, at 4 p.m.
All entries must be received by that time.
Visit our website: www.thatmarcusfamily.org/philosophy/Puzzles/Puzzles_Home.htm

FROM WHERE I SIT
HAMILTON'S INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

By Jian Wang '12
FEATURES WRITER

PHOTO COURTESY OF JIAN WANG '12

J. Wang '12 is an international student from China.

As a green card holder in the U.S. for the past eight years, I have witnessed only two American presidential elections so far. The first election was in 2004 when George W. Bush was elected for his second term as the President of the United States. However, the presidential election of 2008 is the one that inspired me from the very beginning. Even though I cannot vote, I was drawn to the competitive nature of the campaigns. I was inspired by the true meaning of America when Barack Obama won the election and I will utilize those inspirations as motivations to improve my life.

WWW.DOROTHYSGALLERY.COM

I admired Barack Obama's effort in becoming the next president of America. Like the other Obama supporters, I too had dropped everything that I was working on and elicited cheers when Obama won the election on the night of November 4. I was deeply motivated by Obama's efforts since he faced more obstacles than other candidates during their campaigns but was able to overcome them with tremendous courage and determination. His hard work enabled him to overcome the last racial barrier of becoming the first African-American president in history. Even though his opponents were attacking him in every possible way they could, Obama never backed down or questioned his abilities. He won the election by using his charisma, which captured the hearts of many Americans who believe that changes are necessary under the present circumstances. The current state of our country is unpleasant both economically and internationally. I feel that Obama can rebuild our international reputation that has been damaged by the Bush Administration and his plans to stimulate the economy might pull us out of the mortgage crisis that has become globalized. In addition, he believed in himself and his potential despite the critics by maintaining his confidence while working his hardest to accomplish his goal. I believe he has the potential to be a capable and competent leader for the U.S.

The impact of Obama's victory is profound for me. As a minority in the U.S., I can only imagine the process that he went through for his accomplishment. He has inspired me to work harder, dream bigger, and believe in myself more. I understand that success does not come easily but instead effort, commitment, and confidence are the variables involved in contributing to the achievement. He has convinced me that we can succeed despite our backgrounds and the amount of obstacles that we have to face in life. Therefore, I will continue to be inspired by his election and motivate myself to the best of my ability. Obama's policies and his leadership characters have led me to believe in his abilities to lead the country forward and out of the current social crisis. In his intended policies for leading the country out of the global economic crisis that we are currently experiencing, Obama plans to cut taxes for the working families and small businesses to generate incentives to stimulate the economy. Therefore, I respect his policy for supporting free trade instead of McCain's proposition of more government regulations on the economy. I believe his educational, environmental, and healthcare policies will generate a new creative energy leading America into a new era while at the same time writing a new chapter in history.

Many expectations for the future of this country have been placed upon our next president. However, regardless of how the future turns out, the victory of Obama will always be remembered.

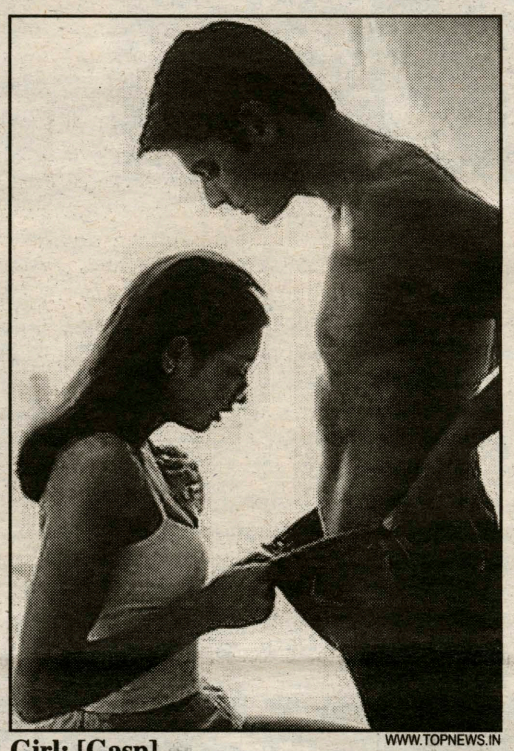
"From Where I Sit" is the ESOL column that presents the non-native English Speaker point of view on his or her American experience at college.

Spectator Between the Sheets

I ♥ Male Orgasms

By Annabelle Moore '12
FEATURES COLUMNIST

Men are said to be simple creatures. While women have a seemingly endless number of erogenous zones, holes and orgasms, men are often described as "easy to please." One main organ, one big orgasm. Because of this, a man's sexual partner may expect it to be easy for all guys to have perfect orgasms. But erectile dysfunction and premature ejaculation are legitimate and common problems that many guys face, and can really damage a guy's self-confidence. Here are some facts about these two male sexual problems, and some tips on how to deal with them.



WWW.TOPNEWS.IN

Girl: [Gasp]
Guy: "You should see it from this angle."

Erectile dysfunction is a common sexual disorder, affecting one in ten men worldwide. Erectile dysfunction is when a man cannot attain or maintain an erection suitable for intercourse. ED typically occurs in older men, and can be caused by smoking. In fact, men who smoke more than one pack a day are 50% more likely to suffer from ED than other men their age. A common form of ED in college students is impotence caused by alcohol, also known as "Whiskey Dick." Whiskey Dick, as some of you may know, is when a guy can't get, or keep, a hard-on because he's had too much to drink. There is a pretty simple solution to this; don't drink so much. You may feel like the man when you're beasting at beer pong, and I'm sure your pick up lines are hilarious after shot gunning three Nattie Ices. But while alcohol may seem to improve your game, Whiskey Dick proves that Jagermeister is not an aphrodisiac. If you repeatedly suffer from Erectile Dysfunction when sober, talk to your doctor. It's a lot more common than you think and can be treated physically, or psychologically.

Premature ejaculation will undoubtedly affect every guy at some point in his life. It is most common in men ages 18–30 years old, so this is especially relevant for college students. The average male can control an orgasm for 6-10 minutes, but most women take 15-20 minutes. Premature ejaculation is a spectrum. On the most severe end is ejaculation before, or within seconds of, penetration. On the other end of the spectrum is the inability to make your partner orgasm before you do. If you're trying to hold off on getting off, here are some tips.

Condoms: Thicker condoms decrease sensitivity, so it won't feel as intense. Durex Performax Condoms and Trojan Extended Pleasure condoms contain Benzocaine, a safe, topical genital desensitizer that slightly numbs the penis. Sex won't be as enjoyable, but that's sort of the point.

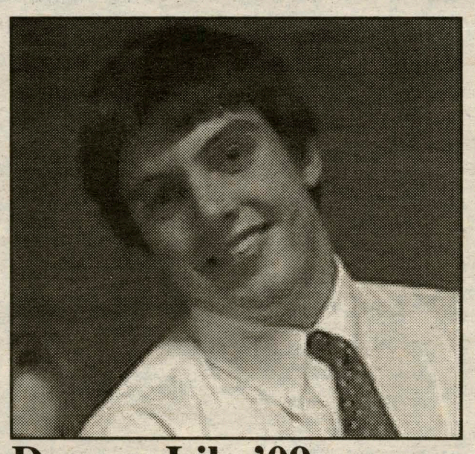
Thinking about baseball: If you're about to cum and don't want to, think about something else completely nonsexual. It's not a perfect fix but it can work in the moment.

Start and Stop Method: The stop and start method should be used during intercourse, but practice makes perfect, right? Next time you're masturbating and you're about to get off, stop. Once the orgasm feeling has passed (but you're still erect), continue. Try to hold it off for as long as possible. Next time you're with your partner and you start to feel some tingles and jingles, pause and make your partner stay still. You can keep kissing, and once the feeling passes feel free to continue. With practice this will significantly increase how long you can hold off orgasm.

Breathing: Breathing through your mouth increases your heart rate, which tells your body that you're ready to orgasm. Deep, steady breaths through your nose can help keep an orgasm at bay.

Even if your partner has already reached orgasm, prolonging an orgasm makes it that much more intense once you finally have it. Hopefully these tips prove useful, whether you're trying to increase your self esteem, please your partner, or reach tantric new heights for yourself.

Separated at Birth?



Deacon Lile '09

Liza Minnelli

Ideas? Send look-a-likes to LMOON.

Levitt Fellows Exhibit Their Research Projects

By Xiaolu Xu '11
FEATURES WRITER

As the fall dwindled and the first snow storm of the season swept by, Hamilton students presented their various summer research projects to the public on Family Weekend. In the Science Center, those who did summer research in sciences displayed their findings and results. Concurrently across campus in KJ, the Emerson fellows gave oral presentations on this past summer, while the Levitt fellows exhibited their works to early arrivals with large-format posters. As a Levitt fellow myself, I got the opportunity to have a closeup look at the works around me.

Each standing before their own posters, Levitt fellows interacted with visitors and peers, talking about their summer achievements in a casual but intellectually stimulating atmosphere. Research ideas from this past summer varied widely from political, social, and economic endeavors. The topics ranged from Assessing Federal Election Administration at the State and Local Level (Blake Hulnick '09), Theories for Community Integration: Refugees in Utica, N.Y. (Daniel Rudel '10), to Democracy and Justice: Findings from South Asia (Stephen Rowe '09), to A Study of the Global Stock Markets Integration (Li Qiu '09). Many topics are closely related to current heated issues. For instance, Wenxi Li worked with Professor Doug Ambrose in the Department of History on "The Ultimate Dominance of Party Interests: African American Suffrage and the Republican Party Ideology from 1860-1900," a topic relevant to the recent development in U.S. election history. Li wonders "why African Americans, who had voted overwhelmingly with the Republican Party after the Emancipation Proclamation now voted with the Democratic Party." She concluded that "enacting and protecting African American suffrage was never a party priority within itself; rather, it was a means to an end to guarantee Republican Party survival." Li showed her critical thinking and academic interest outside of the classroom by discussing in her Levitt the possibility of electing an African American president, which recently became a reality.

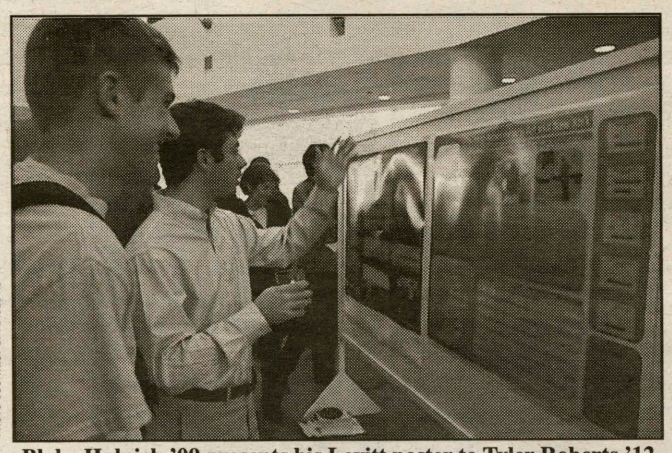


PHOTO COURTESY OF XIAOLU XU '11

Blake Hulnick '09 presents his Levitt poster to Tyler Roberts '12.

Fellows use various types of media for research. They visit locations of interest, read news and other publications, and interview prominent figures relevant to their topics. Silin Li '11, who was researching McDonald's impact on Chinese culture in a Levitt titled "From McDonald's to Chinese Cultural Identity in a Globalization World," conducted a survey on 800 people in China to ask their opinions about this American fast food brand. Fellows each employed the methods most suitable and effective for them to gather the information necessary for their projects. By taking great advantage of their international exposure and liberal arts educations, students brought unique perspectives on their issues to the Hamilton community.

Professor Steven Orvis of the Government Department commented, "Students who applied their summer research achievement to senior theses usually did significantly better in senior theses than others." Usually many Levitt Fellows continued their research after summer or integrated their summer research with senior theses. Many non-seniors also expressed their gratitude for having such a golden opportunity. By spending a whole summer studying their topics of interest with the help of advising professors, students developed their research skills and broadened their horizons.

PHOTO COURTESY OF XIAOLU XU '11

Wenxi Li '10 presents her Levitt on the voting patterns of African Americans

2009 Hamilton PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

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QUANTUM OF SOLACE — DANIEL CRAIG — STADIUM SEATING — DTS PG-13
●12:15●2:30-5:05-7:30▲9:50

FIREPROOF — KIRK CAMERON — PG
●2:10-4:30-7:00▲9:30

#1 MOVIE — BEN STILLER - CHRIS ROCK
MADAGASCAR ESCAPE 2 AFRICA — STADIUM SEATING ON 2 SCREENS
●12:00●1:00●2:05●3:05
4:10-5:10-6:15-7:15▲8:20▲9:20 — DTS PG

SEANN WILLIAMS SCOTT- PAUL RUDD
ROLE MODELS — DTS R
●1:30●3:35-5:40-7:50▲9:55

DISNEY'S — ZAC EFRON
●12:05●2:25-4:45-7:05▲9:25
HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 — G

Zack and Miri make a porno — SETH ROGEN — ELIZABETH BANKS — R
●12:40●3:00-5:20-7:40▲9:45

APPALOOSA
ED HARRIS - VIGO MORTENSEN - RENEE ZELLWEGERV
●12:10●2:20-4:35-6:50▲9:05 — R

THE HAUNTING OF MOLLY HARTLEY
●12:30●2:30-6:40 — PG-13

SAW V — 4:40▲8:30 — R

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Bachelor & Bachelorette of the Week

Ngoc "Mike" Nguyen '11

PHOTO COURTESY OF NGOC NGUYEN '11

Age: 19
Eye Color: Black
Height: 5'7"
Sign: Gemini

Hometown: New Hartford, NY
Major: Government/Economics
On Campus Activities: Rugby, Tour Guide, Mock Trial, ASB
Interested In: Ladies
What You Are Looking For Now: Waiting for cupid

Ideal Date
On Campus: Late night chat on golf course looking up at stars
Off Campus: Picnic, hand holding.

Turn Ons: A sweet smile
Turn Offs: STD's
Dating Deal Makers: Someone who is fun
Dating Deal Breakers: STD's

Favorites
Exercise At The Gym: Pec Dec Explosion – Total Pectoral Doctoral Engagment
Gift to Give: Whatever you like.
Gift to Get: I'm not big on getting gifts.
Song: "Every Time We Touch" (Techno) - Cascada
Book: *The Little Prince* by Antoin de Saint Exupery
Movie: Wedding Crashers
"Guilty Pleasure" Song: Anything Country / Hillary Duff – "Come Clean"
"Guilty Pleasure" Movie: Top Gun
Celeb Crush: Vanessa Lengies
Campus Crush: Marge
Faculty Crush: PG Wyckoff
Breakfast: Banana Pancakes
Quote: "Do Work."
Most attractive organization on campus: Campus Safety
Car: Honda Pilot

Ors
Light side or Dark side? Bundy
Innie or Outie? Which are you?
Coffee or Tea? Tea
Boxers or Briefs? Boxer briefs on me… my boxers on my mate.
Midnight Rendezvous or Afternoon Delight? Why not both?
Hot or Cold? Cold… Ice Cold
Rok or VT? Both
Opus or DD? I don't drink coffee
Keystone light or keystone ice? Regular Keystone Red. It's always smooth, even when you're not
Annex or ELS basement? Annex
KJ or Science Center? SCCT during the day, KJ at night

My most attractive quality: My boyish charm or witty humor… you pick
Weirdest decoration in my room: Street Sign
The outfit that epitomizes me: White Tee, '87 Jeans, Fresh Pair Nike's

If I were an animal I would be: Stuffed… so people can cuddle with me.
If I were a color I would be: Green
If I could go anywhere in the world I would go to: Outer Space, b/c not many people can go.
If I were a cartoon character, I would be: Simba, King of The Lions

The best pick-up line I have used: No lines…
The best pick-up line that has worked on me: I'm a sucker for "Hey Cutie"
How can someone tell that you are interested? ***(ie. Is your move prolonged eye contact or a slap on the ass?):*** Both…. In that order.

If you were to write a poem for your date, what style would it be in?
An epic free verse, or a heroic couplet.

If I were out with a date & were charged by a bear I would:
A) Throw my date in front of the bear and run
B) Expose my breast to the bear and scream "Take me instead"
C) Kill your date and yourself before the bear gets you
D) Team up and try to fight the bear
E) Other… I would kindly ask the bear to leave, if it doesn't… I'd fight it. Then comfort my date by wrapping my strong arms around her and snuggling.

Sarah Schrader '09

PHOTO COURTESY OF SARAH SCHRADER '09

Age: 21
Eye Color: Brown
Height: 5'8"
Sign: Leo

Hometown: Rangeley, ME
Major: Psychology
Minor: Art
On Campus Activities: Basketball
What You Are Looking For Now: Articles for my thesis.

Ideal Date:
On Campus: Climbing a tree.
Off Campus: Chizcake Factory.

Turn Ons: Long distance runners.
Turn Offs: Big necks
Dating Deal Makers: Can carry a tune or two
Dating Deal Breakers: STD's

Favorites
Place to Hangout on Campus: Commons
Exercise At The Gym: Foam Roller
Gift to Give: A sticky note.
Gift to Get: Trail Mix
Song: "Meet Virginia" by Train
Movie: Patch Adams
"Guilty Pleasure" Song: "BBQ Stain"
"Guilty Pleasure" Movie: High School Musical
Celeb Crush: George Clooney
Campus Crush: Zak Cherrabi
Faculty Crush: JV
Breakfast: English muffin with strawberry jelly
Quote: "It's not easy being green." - Kermit
Most attractive organization on campus: Streaking Team
Dream Car: 2001 Subaru Impreza Outback

Ors
Light side or Dark side? Light side
Innie or Outie? In-betweenie
Coffee or Tea? Chai
Boxers or Briefs? Briefs
Midnight Rendezvous or Afternoon Delight? Afternoon Delight
Hot or Cold? Cold
Rok or VT? Neither
Opus or DD? Opus
Keystone light or keystone ice? Vodka
Annex or ELS basement? Annex
KJ or Science Center? Science Center

My most attractive quality: Gastrocnemius
Weirdest decoration in my room: A Globe
The outfit that epitomizes me: Black stretchy pants (not spandex) and fleece socks

If I were an animal I would be: a toad.
If I were a color I would be: Myrtle Green
If I could go anywhere in the world I would go to: Phoenix because I miss my sister.

The best pick-up line I have used: "Are those space pants? Cuz you're outta this world!"
The best pick-up line that has worked on me: I'm a sucker for "Hey Cutie"
How can someone tell that you are interested?: I'll probably ignore you☺
If you were to write a poem for your date, what style would it be in?
Cacophony – a meaningless mixture of sounds.

If I were out with a date & were charged by a bear I would:
A) Throw my date in front of the bear and run
B) Expose my breast to the bear and scream "Take me instead"
C) Kill your date and yourself before the bear gets you
D) Team up and try to fight the bear

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Compiled by Erin Hoener '10, Managing Editor

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Backstage: Getting Personal with The Flobots

by Jennifer Vano
Arts & Entertainment Editor

How is it that The Flobots can effortlessly incite a group of sweaty twenty-somethings to do almost anything, from "rising" on command to jumping up and down to shouting mantras? "There's no formula for this band," said Andy Rok, Flobots guitarist, and maybe that's why restless and identity-seeking young adults flock to them. The members of the Flobots—Jonny 5, a.k.a. Jaimie Laurie (MC), Brer Rabbit (vocals), Mackenzie Roberts (viola), Kenny Ortiz (drums), Jesse Walker (bass), Andy Rok (guitar) and Joe Ferrone (trumpet)—bring to the table vastly different musical backgrounds and influences—but they share a passion for both music and social justice. It is precisely the convergence of these elements that makes The Flobots' style contagious, and, well, fascinating.

"We definitely have disagreements as a band, said Rok, "but we come together."

The guys "really like Metallica, and I think Metallica is the worst crap out there. Ever. Situations like that happen. Sometimes they want to do the really heavy guitar stuff, and I'm like 'oh god, here we go,'" explained Roberts. And even though she can't be sure whether her male counterparts love Bach as much as she does, "it's that compromise and that element of, ok, how can we integrate this in a way that's unique and that everybody likes that really makes [the Flobots] different."

True. Whether it's Jonny 5's signature bandana, Brer Rabbit's pop-and-lock routine mid-show or Roberts' viola solos, there's no denying that The Flobots refresh both the rock and hip-hop musical landscapes. No wonder they've been called "progressive," and that the major label that re-released their independently written, produced, and recorded album, *Fight with Tools,* agreed to do so completely untouched.

"[The label] really understood what we were about, and they didn't ask us to change the album at all," explained Ortiz.

Good thing. If you looked up sense-of-self in a dictionary, you are likely to find a picture of The Flobots in neon ink.

Roberts continued, "We've never at any point changed our music or compromised our artistic integrity for anybody else ever. We've really maintained that sense of, 'if you want to be on our side and help us out, that's great, and if not, peace. We're making the music that we're making and we're staying true to ourselves and our beliefs" either way. "That feels really good."

Self-awareness and –confidence is great, but what does that actually mean? For one, The Flobots' records are unabashedly opinionated about the political and social climates. Songs like "Rise" and "Stand Up" directly challenge listeners to speak out against injustice and for social change, but even the well known and catchy "Handlebars" has nuance. As 5 previously explained, "Handlebars," the inspiration for which came to him when he lifted his hands off the handlebars during a bike ride, speaks to the often-oppressive uses of innovation.

Unlike many contemporary entertainers, that often speak but don't act out, The Flobots are actually infusing their strong opinions not only into their music but also into concrete projects that result in tangible change.

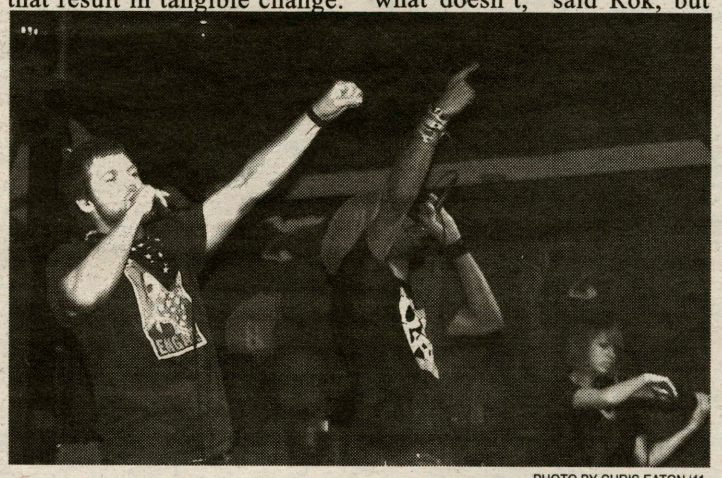

PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

From left: Jonny 5, Brer Rabbit & Mackenzie Roberts perform their politically charged records with passion.

"We started our non profit last year because we were finding that people were coming to our shows... getting really inspired, really motivated and thinking, 'I really want to get out into my community and do something, but where do I go, what do I do, who do I talk to? There's no outlet to actually take the next step. So we started the street team so people can sign up on our website, fightwithtools.org...and start working on those things in their communities that they really think need to change," said Roberts.

The organization is "still in its infant stage. We've never had a band and a nonprofit at the same time. We're still figuring out what works and what doesn't," said Rok, but the project has already been successful. Pre-election, the band and its street team registered 1000 people to vote and built a studio and created music lessons at the Denver Children's Home in Colorodo, the band's home state.

While Fight with Tools might be a baby, The Flobots' dedication and openness to change will undoubtedly sustain the project and inspire youth. The band itself has evolved tremendously since its own infancy in good 'ol Denver years ago. "Jonny 5 and Brer were rapping together since they were 10 and were doing some stuff in high school under the name Flobots," but by the time "I met Jonny...nothing was really going on with Flobots. We started doing beat poetry type stuff...and Andy, a friend of [Jonny's] for a long time, encouraged him to get a live band together. We asked all of our friends who were great musicians if they would want to play," explained Roberts.

And there was born (or reborn) The Flobots, a group of *real* musicians whose greatest inspiration, perhaps, is progress. And, despite the political heaviness of 2007's *Fight with Tools,* they look to their next album, set for release in 2009, as an outlet "to touch on the more personal, internal, and introspective" in order to "let the fans get to know us personally a bit better," said Roberts.

For the highly successful yet down-to-earth Flobots, half the members of which flocked to Hamilton College's Little Pub after their Friday November 7th show for a beer, some conversation with fans, and the latest update on the Denver Nugget's score, the goal remains: "keep a good balance...a little bit of everything," said Rok, and while change is good, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it, you know?"

Message: clear. Meaning: we haven't heard the last of The Flobots yet, not nearly.

Piano, Cello in Wellin Hall

by Michelle Reiser-Memmer
Arts Administrator

The Hamilton College Department of Music presents a free recital with cellist Gregory Wood and pianist Sar-Shalom Strong on Sunday, Nov. 16 at 3 p.m. in Wellin Hall. The performance will include Shostakovich's Sonata in D minor for Cello and Piano and Grieg's Cello Sonata in A minor.

Gregory Wood is assistant principal cellist with the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra where he has been a member since 1978. He has performed with the Cassatt Quartet with the Trans-Siberian Orchestra in Syracuse and in New York City for an appearance on "Good Morning America" in 2002.

Pianist Sar-Shalom Strong has achieved widespread recognition for his versatility, delivering sensitive performances of solo and collaborative repertoire spanning five centuries. His collaborations with well-known artists such as flutists Gary Shocker and Judith Mendenhall, sopranos Helen Boatwright, Janet Brown and Judith Kellock, and the finest musicians of Central New York, have endeared him to audiences and critics alike.

He is committed to furthering the education of aspiring musicians, whether by teaching piano, coaching ensembles, or collaborating with developing young artists. Currently a lecturer in piano and coordinator of staff pianists for Hamilton College, he has also held positions at Colgate and Syracuse Universities. He is a long-term member of the New York State Music Teachers Association, the College Music Society, and the National Guild of Piano Teachers, as well as local organizations devoted to building musical awareness and skills among young musicians.

This concert is free and open to the public. For more information, call the box office at (315) 859-4331 or visit www.hamiltonpa.org.

HAMILTON SAFETY HOROSCOPES

by Steve Allinger '09
Staff Seer

Aries: Don't break up with crazy people.

Taurus: Don't let your friends tease you about safety; plenty of men carry rape whistles.

Gemini: Since Hamilton policy won't allow you to keep a guard dog, I suggest a hermit crab that with practice can be thrown at an assailant with devastating accuracy.

Cancer: Always carry pepper spray on your way to Commons. As far as I can tell, it's the only thing that makes the Utica Style Greens edible.

Leo: If you find yourself the victim of vandalism, just remember: that may be their way of saying, "I love you."

Virgo: The only fail-proof way to guard against car theft is apparently to own a 1990 Nissan Stanza which they REFUSE to steal... I mean come on! What's wrong with my Infinite? It gets good mileage and has a sun-roof!

Libra: Make sure you can trust your friends before you show them where you keep your valuables...especially if they rub their hands together and cackle when they see your iPhone.

Scorpio: Condoms.

Sagittarius: Remember, getting excessively drunk can make you more likely to get mugged, but also remember, not drinking excessively can make you more likely to suck.

Capricorn: When walking home at night, try to avoid crowded, well-lit areas where you are easily spotted by criminals. Dark alleys and the woods are your best bet.

Aquarius: There is no 5 second rule in the following places: Bundy, Dunham, Millbank, the Farmhouse, and Commons. If food falls on the ground in these places, let it lie.

Pisces: If you think your drink may have been rufied, immediately give it to a freshmen to make sure it's safe.

Beyond Comedy: Bobby Peru & Yodapez

by Rachel Pohl '11
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Ever wanted to know more about your favorite improv and sketch comedy troupes— Yodapez and Bobby Peru? After interviews with senior Yodapez member Stephen Michel and senior Bobby Peru member Larry Allen, *The Spectator* learned a lot about each group. Both joined their respective groups during their freshman year. Here is what they had to say…

What exactly are Yodapez and Bobby Peru?
Yodapez: Hamilton's best and only improv comedy troupe.
Bobby Peru: Hamilton's best and only sketch comedy troupe. Formed before Yodapez around 1997.
Where do the names come from?
Y: No one quite knows where the name comes from, as the troupe has been around longer than any of the members in it.
BP: The name is kind of a secret but there is a movie with a transvestite named Bobby Peru. According to legend, there is an implication to the name.
What kind of people do the groups look for?
Y: We wanted to find people who have a good sense of humor, fit with the rest of the group, and were willing to take risks. We took two new freshmen this year in an effort to bolster younger members, as many members will be graduating in May. It also depends on who is in the troupe currently, because we look at the strengths and weaknesses within the group. This year, 18 people auditioned and we took two people. We have had years where as few as five or six people tried out and years where as many as 20 to 25 auditioned. We look for people who commit and create interesting characters.

"The name...is a secret, but there is a movie with a transvestite named Bobby Peru." -Larry Allen '09

BP: We look for fun and humorous people. We held auditions in September, and we chose three out of the four people that tried out. We have one junior, one sophomore, and one freshman so we don't discriminate based on class.
Do most people have improv experience before auditioning?
Y: Most have some kind of involvement in improv. We draw from varying skill levels and varying levels of experience. Dave Moroney had a lot of improv experience coming into Yodapez. I had a lot less experience. Even with a lot of experience, if you are not open to the dynamic, it will be harder.
How are practices run?
Y: We practice two to three times a week, usually for an hour. In practice, we play the exact same kind of games as in the show. We work on scene building, character creation, and conflict resolution. Usually whoever is set to MC the next show directs rehearsal so we can get a feeling for what games the MC likes to play.
BP: We meet once a week for about an hour. We talk about skits and people think about ideas during the week. During practice, we talk about all the ideas and come up with funny lines. We normally meet over the weekend, so it's pretty informal.
What is the worst show the groups have ever had?
Y: The Colgate improv festival last semester. It was sort of a catastrophe, but it taught us a lot. It was a failure to communicate among troupe members; nine times out of ten, if a game fails, it was a miscommunication. It was a long night by the time we got to Colgate and we were performing in an unfamiliar performance place. We can never point to anyone and say they deliberately messed it up because it just does not work that way. Generally, we are pretty consistent. However, we used the situation to figure out what to work on.
BP: The 2007 senior week show. Two/thirds of the members in the group were seniors and were enjoying their senior week a bit too much to contribute to the show…
Will there be another show before the end of the year?
Y: We will do at least one more show before the end of the semester, maybe during reading period.
BP: We will be performing our first show after Thanksgiving break in the annex.
Is there any animosity between the two groups?
Y: No, I don't think so.
BP: There is a joking animosity. We have a running joke that Yodapez is our bastard child since we have been around longer.

Weekly Charts

by Jennifer Vano '09
Arts & Entertainment Editor

MUSIC
(From billboard.com)

Top Albums
1. Twilight-Soundtrack
2. Black Ice-AC/DC
3. High School Musical 3: Senior Year
4. Take it to the Limit-Hinder
5. Funhouse-Pink

Top Singles
1. Live Your Life-T.I. feat. Rihanna
2. Whatever You Like-T.I.
3. Hot N Cold-Katy Perry
4. Heartless-Kanye West
5. If I Were a Boy-Beyonce

MOVIES
(From imdb.com)
1. Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa
2. Role Models
3. High School Musical 3: Senior Year
4. Changeling
5. Zack and Miri Make a Porno

BOOKS
(From The New York Times Best Seller List)

Paperback Fiction
1. THE SHACK, by William P. Young
2. THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES, by Sue Monk Kidd
3. WORLD WITHOUT END, by Ken Follett
4. THE ROAD, by Cormac McCarthy
5. THE BRIEF WONDROUS LIFE OF OSCAR WAO, by Junot Díaz

Paperback Non-Fiction
1. THREE CUPS OF TEA, by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin
2. MARLEY & ME, by John Grogan
3. THE AUDACITY OF HOPE, by Barack Obama
4. DREAMS FROM MY FATHER, by Barack Obama
5. EAT, PRAY, LOVE, by Elizabeth Gilbert

LETTUCE HEAD

Presented By Joshua Hicks '09 & Joseph Kazacos '09

Black Hawk Dawn

Although *Black Hawk Down* presents itself with all the elements of Hollywood, it comes off as something else. With heroes, explosions, bullets and crash landings, this film seems to have everything needed to keep an audience enthralled in the action. However, this movie comes off more as a documentary like a dramatization you might see on the military channel. Without being able to easily distinguish characters, it is hard to grasp a concrete plot line and appreciate the events which actually took place in 1993, so this is definitely not a movie you want to see with a bunch of drunk kids with ADD. As a war story, however, the movie seems to be quite accurate in its account, while still managing to convey a message about war and civil unrest, earning *Black Hawk Down* 3.5 lettuce heads. Make sure to catch it on channel 54.

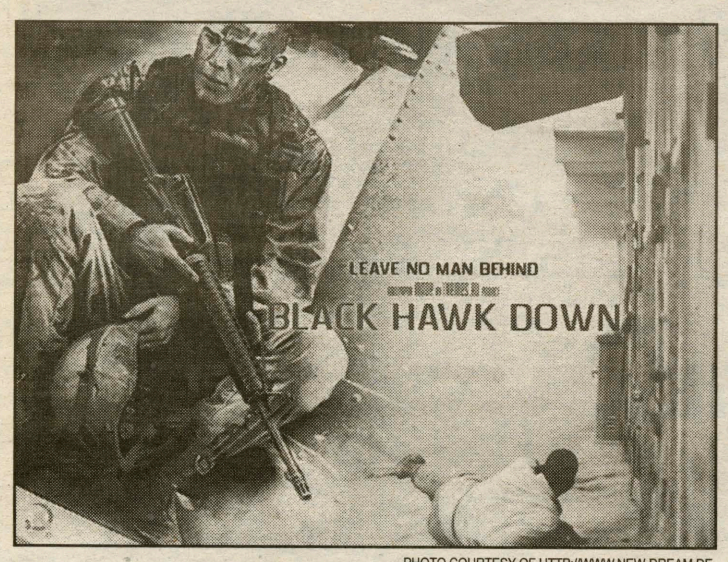

PHOTO COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.NEW-DREAM.DE

This film depicts the botched 1993 operation in Somalia.

The Last Temptation of Christ

In the midst of my class, Celluloid Savior, a.k.a. Jesus in Film, I couldn't help but note my newly favored Jesus film, The Last Temptation of Christ. This film was released in 1988 starring Willem Dafoe as Jesus the Christ, and it takes a very non-traditional take of the story of Christ. Despite the Brooklyn accents and David Bowie's anti-superstar portrayal of Pontius Pilate this film really speaks to the struggle that Jesus could have (keyword is could) felt while trying to save the world as both God and man. This is a fictional invention of the Christ story towards salvation, and needs to be noted before watching. It's an experience, and I give it 5 Lettuce Heads.

Back to the Future

There's nothing like taking a step back in time especially in a Time Machine. Now, to take a step away from H. G. Wells' novel, I'd rather talk about the greatest 80s film of all time, *Back to the Future*! A sensational comedy overall, Michael J. Fox is Marty McFly who manages to travel back in time to his parents' high school days during the 1950s. Everything about this new world is so believable (a reference to Ronald Regan - the actor, not the president, and televisions showing re-runs as an out-of-this-world concept add to the classic American flavor). Marty realizes that after he's accidentally landed in 1955, he must quickly adjust, but problem after problem arises, and he could end up destroying his own future by tampering with the past. This classic comedy gets 5 Lettuce Heads for brilliant directing, authenticity, and comic flare. Of course, I wasn't around in 1955, but as we approach a new generation, I'm proud to quote Marty when defining this film: "It's an oldie where I come from." This film might be an oldie, but it's hands down a goodie.

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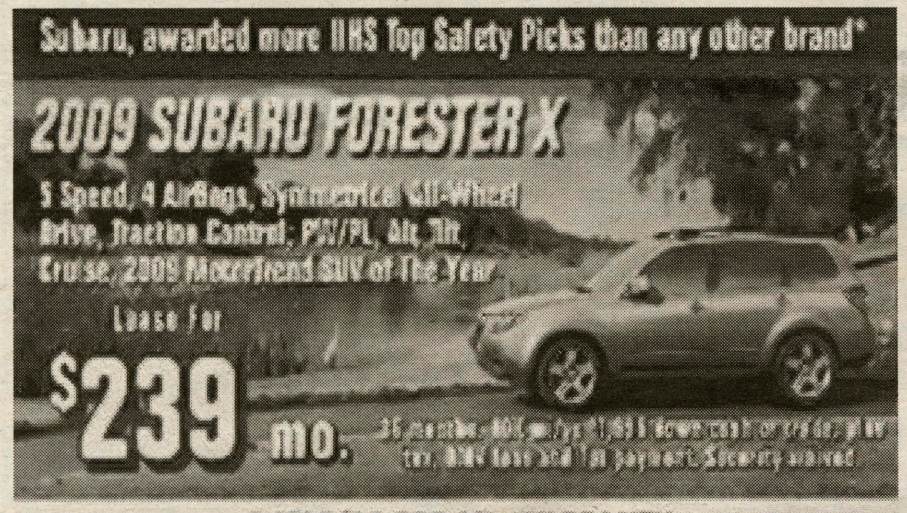
STUDENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

will be held on Monday December 8th through Tuesday December 9th for the:

Student Assembly President and Vice President
Please Note: The Student Assembly President and Vice President run as a single ticket with one platform and signature sheet. Also, in order to run, the Presidential candidate must have attended at least 8 student assembly meetings.

To Apply:
1. Submit a signature sheet (see e-mail attachment) with 75 signatures (NOTE: students may only sign one ticket's signature sheet)
2. Write a platform of no more than 200 words explaining interest in the position and aspirations for the Assembly, should you be elected. Platforms longer than 200 words will be cut at the 200th word.
3. Attend a short, but mandatory briefing meeting time and place TBA.

Signature sheets and platforms will be accepted no later than Friday November 21st at noon. Email platforms to wbauder@hamilton.edu and submit signatures to Will Bauder, Box 107 via campus mail. Specific questions regarding your responsibilities if elected to office or the election procedures? Email Will at wbauder@hamilton.edu



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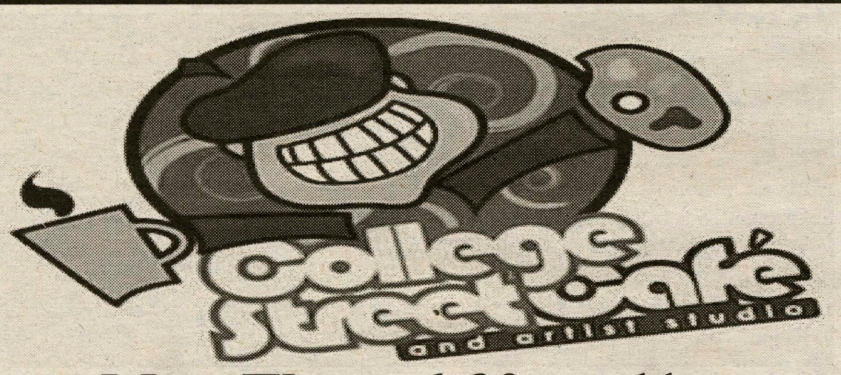

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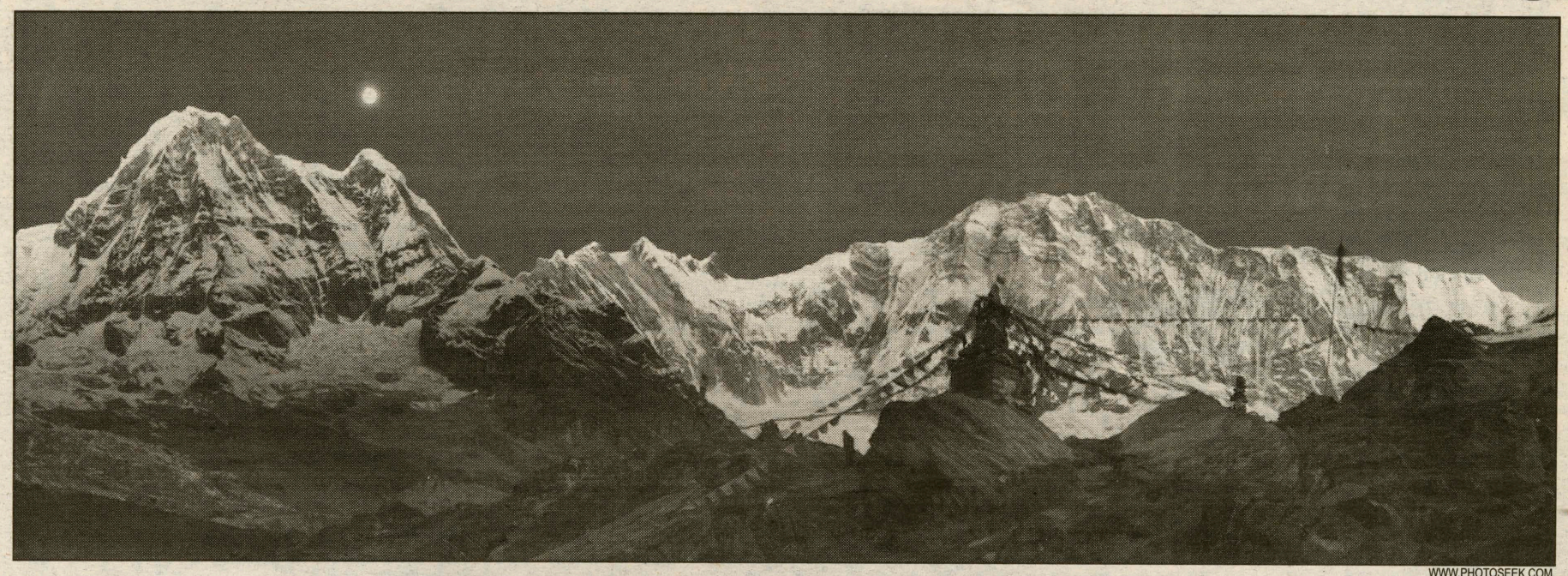
Arlene Blum: Inspiration from Mountaineering



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Annapurna, a mountain peak in the Himilayas, is amongst the most difficult peaks to climb, and Blum was the first American to climb it.

by Saad S. Chaudhry '12
Science & Technology Editor

On Monday evening, Arlene Blum, biophysical chemist, mountaineer, and author of Breaking Trail: A Climbing Life, Annapurna: A Woman's Place, and Woman's Place is on Top, delivered a lecture titled "Breaking Trail: Mountains and Molecules." As the title suggests, the lecture juxtaposed her life as a chemist and as a mountaineer, though anyone who hears her speak or reads her books would first and foremost characterize her as an incredibly inspiring humanitarian.

Blum is certainly a celebrity any mountaineering fanatic would die to see—figuratively, of course. She is best known for being the first American to ascend Annapurna, a mountain peak in the Himalayas widely regarded as one of the most difficult to climb. She was also the first woman to attempt to ascend Mount Everest, the highest mountain on Earth. Additionally, she was the deputy leader of an all-female mountaineering group, the Denali Damsels; they were the first all-female group to ascend the highest mountain in the United States, Mount McKinley in Alaska.

Blum kicked off the lecture with a sentence that was as graceful as her enlightening demeanor and warming smile: "I respect the spirit within you." She proceeded to satisfy the eager audience's hunger for hearing the word "Annapurna" come out of the legendary figure's mouth, as she admitted that it was the greatest and most difficult climb she has experienced in her life.

Blum then moved on to some autobiographical information, mainly consisting of insightful short anecdotes from her book Breaking Trail. She started off by telling the audience that her grandmother was deaf, most of the adult figures in her childhood smoked and were in a perpetual state of quarrelsome behavior; Blum credits such a terrifying atmosphere prepared her for dealing with altercations amongst individuals that she just had to get along with in order to survive, even till this day when she goes on her mountaineering expeditions. Regardless, an outlet was necessary, and her only way of escaping what seemed like terror was to go out into the winter atmosphere. "The worse the weather, the better I felt," she states, and clearly this unfortunate situation in her youth prepared her with the love for an environmental appreciation that allowed her to achieve great heights (no pun intended) later in her life.

Life began to turn to a brighter light once she began her undergraduate studies at Reed College, in Portland, Oregon, and she majored in chemistry. She is also met her lover at Reed—her "chemistry lab partner who much too handsome, to say the least." Then she continued her studies with a Ph. D program for physical chemistry at Berkeley; she also didn't stop climbing while getting her Ph. D, as she would climb everything in sight, even the buildings on campus!

Her outlook on life changed

*see **Blum Heightens**, page 21*

The Spectator... Between The Pixels

by Ruben P. Withers '12
Science & Technology Writer

I cautiously stepped out from behind the hulk of the car. The street before me was cracked and brown, bits of desert scrub poking through the holes and craters. The buildings on either side loomed decrepitly over me, as if staring at me through dead eyes. I stepped forward cautiously, one step at a time, my hunting rifle in my hands. Suddenly, I heard the sound of a jet igniting above me. I snapped my head up just in time to see a rocket hurtling towards me, leaving a trail of exhaust in the air. I dashed backwards, trying to get away, but to no avail; the rocket smashed itself into the ground nearby. It didn't detonate at first, and, stupidly, I considered myself lucky. A moment or two later, it erupted into a brilliant flare and a miniature mushroom cloud, sending me flying. The blast of the mini-nuke crippled my arm and my leg, but I managed to drag myself behind some cover, aiming my hunting rifle upwards towards where the rocket had come from. I saw two hulking green-skinned figures up there, each one clad haphazardly in black leather and armor. One held a massive mini-gun in his thick, yellow-veined hands; the other, the Fat Boy that had launched the mini-nuke at me. As the super-mutant with the mini-gun roared and opened fire upon my cover, I took aim at his head. I wasn't going to go down without a fight.

While the entire scene from above occurred completely within an Xbox360 game called "Fallout 3", that doesn't make it stand out any less prominently in my memory. It was a completely virtual thing, just images on a screen changing in response to the commands coming from the controller in my hand. It was a computer program simulating a world which never existed, and hopefully never will. Fictional and fake on almost every level. But still somehow so visceral, so real, that the scene will likely remain in my memory until I encounter another, cooler moment.

This is just one of countless examples of what happens when technology blends perfectly with narrative. The technology necessary to create these visuals, to generate such an intricate virtual world, combined with storytelling flair has resulted in some compel-

*see **Video Games**, page 21*

Dorm Energy Battle Update

Hamilton Environmental Action Group and Hamilton College's first ever dorm energy battle is close to completion, with Milbank leading in the first competition, and Kirkland leading in the second competition. See the scoreboard for yourself:

Competition 1

Dorm	Energy Use as of November 12
Babbitt	195.5 kwH
Milbank	169.6 kwH

Competition 2

Dorm	Energy Use as of November 12
Major	79.5kwH
Minor	85.6kwH
McIntosh	68.55kwH
Kirkland	54.8kwH
Wertimer	58.45kwH

The Dorm Energy Scoreboard is updated daily and available at www.geocities.com/energybattle. Also, be sure to check out Hamilton's new energy dashboard at www.hamilton.edu/dashboard.

Blum Heightens Humanity Through With Chemistry

*from **Arlene Blum**, page 19*

Denali National Park.

But for the rest of the lecture, Blum spoke about her experience and work as a chemist. And this confused a part of the audience, for they did not understand what mountaineering had to do with chemistry. Thus, before getting into the chemical life of Blum, it is necessary to address why Blum felt that mountaineering was directly related to her life as a chemist; Blum stated, "I tended to suffer with a cluttered, busy mind. I tried meditation, but that would always just make me sleepy. But when I am climbing, and am on a mountain like Annapurna, you better believe I can't think of anything else but the task at hand, and so my mind is uncluttered. This is why I tell all my colleagues that all my best work as a chemist comes after I mountaineer." Then she went on to tell a story about how she actually completed a scientific report while on one of her climbs on Mount Hood, and a colleague from Berkeley flew over to pick up the article, and flew back to Berkeley to hand it in for Blum while she was still finishing up the climb.

Even as a chemist, Blum worked on humanitarian projects that not only stunned the scientific community, but also changed government policy. For instance, Blum worked on a project that demonstrated how common fire retardants used by certain furniture and sleep-wear companies are actually more dangerous than helpful. First, she discovered that they don't retard fire per se, but rather just slow down the rate of burning. Second, fire retardants when burning actually release gaseous chemicals that cause cancer, thus they are actually hated by fire fighters. And third, fire retardants can actually diffuse through the skin into the human body, which Blum determined by examining human urine. Once Blum's report was published, much political and economic controversy was spurred, and it also sparked a new line of environmental, social, and economic activism.

WWW.ARLENEBLUM.COM

In the end, Blum will certainly be remembered most prominently as a revolutionary mountaineer by the masses; however, anyone who really cares to read or hear more about her will know climbing is just a picture in a grandiose, most magnificent collage.

Celebrate EMT Appreciation!

Hamilton College is proud to acknowledge and thank the Emergency Medical Service and its student Emergency Medical Technicians:

Sujitha Amalanayagam '10, Nicholas Berry '09, Ashley Bourgeois '09, Andrew Branting '11, Christina Clark '10, Sam Cowan '11, Erin Evans '10, Sarah Goodell '11, Megan Herman '09, Cassidy Jay '11, Shane Knapp '09, Kathy Lee '11, Jared Leslie '09, John Lofrese '10, Shyama Nair '10, Ben Saccomano '09, Amanda Schoen '09, Alexa Schwarzman '09, Ryan Seewald '10, Emma Trucks '09, Sam Ward '11, Caitlyn Williams '11, Keith Willner '11 and Kendra Wulczyn '10.

Video Game Insight

*from **Video Games**, page 20*

One Stormtrooper might desperately attempt to grab onto a box (perhaps even succeeding in dragging it into the air with him), another would shoot wildly in every direction, and a third might just scream like a ninny. This incredible amount of pseudo-realism (we are still talking about Star Wars, after all) allowed the game to provide a never-before-seen depth for the player to experience.

These advances in technology allow stories to come to life in new and exciting ways. One example of this is "Spore", in which the player steers a species all the way from micro-organism to interstellar empire. Spore's main claim to fame is its robust editing systems, with which a player can create creatures which look like anything they want. Further, the game shares these creations with other players online, seamlessly integrating them into the games of many different players. You may encounter a walking cell phone, a four-eyed duck, a strangely motile penis (this should be expanded upon in an upcoming Spectator Between The Sheets article), or a strangely excitable species called "The Ploogles". "Spore", unlike "Fallout 3" and "The Force Unleashed", allows players to create their own story instead of experiencing the pre-written stories of the other two games. Ultimately, the different experiences show that the divide between the infinite creativity of storytelling and t.he limits of technology is constantly shrinking.

As I, a gamer of varied tastes, can attest, this steadily advancing technology can only bode well for the future of gaming and storytelling. I can only imagine how, in the future, I may be able to create a character who can shoot ducks out of his fingers to defeat the evil villain, just as another player may create a simple farmer who farms ducks in the same game. But who knows what new technological breakthroughs await just around the corner? Who knows what uses developers will put to virtual duck technology? Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men?

WWW.WORDPRESS.COM

The X-Box 360 Console.

Leading by "Thinking Time"

by David Riordan '09
Sci & Tech Senior Writer

British Tory leader David Cameron and American president-elect Barack Obama certainly seem to have a lot in common, including a shared belief that "thinking time" and relaxation are essential to fulfilling the offices they have aspired to.

In the year since he became the leader of the opposition Conservative Party, the charismatic 41-year old Cameron has reinvented British conservatism and revitalized his party to such an extent that it once maintained a 20-point lead in polls ahead of the incumbent Labour party, led by the wildly unpopular Gordon Brown, until the financial crisis brought the boring Brown out of poll dolldroms.

Cameron and Obama have become the faces of the ideology of Change that citizens on both sides of the Atlantic are clamoring for.

And as men who have both been on rigorous campaigns and in interruption-laden jobs, they also share an understanding that it's simply not possible to fulfill your duties by "working" 100% of the time.

Obama met with Cameron last August as one of the last stops on his international (later pinned as Celebrity) tour, and in a private conversation picked up by ABC, Cameron asked Obama if he'd gotten a break yet.

"You should be on the beach," Cameron told Obama. "You need a break. Well, you need to be able to keep your head together."

"You've got to refresh yourself," agreed Obama.

"Do you have a break at all?" asked Cameron.

"I have not," said Obama. "I am going to take a week in August. But I agree with you that somebody, somebody who had worked in the White House who -- not Clinton himself, but somebody who had been close to the process -- said that, should we be successful, that actually the most important thing you need to do is to have big chunks of time during the day when all you're doing is thinking. And the biggest mistake that a lot of these folks make is just feeling as if you have to be -- "

"These guys just chalk your diary up," said Cameron, referring to a packed schedule.

"Right," Obama said. "In 15 minute increments …"

"We call it the dentist's waiting room," Cameron said. "You have to scrap that because you've got to have time."

"And, well, and you start making mistakes," Obama said, "or you lose the big picture. Or you lose a sense of, I think you lose a feel-- "

"Your feeling," interrupted Cameron. "And that is exactly what politics is all about. The judgment you bring to make decisions."

"That's exactly right," Obama said. "And the truth is that we've got a bunch of smart people, I think, who know ten times more than we do about the specifics of the topics. And so if what you're trying to do is micromanage and solve everything then you end up being a dilettante but you have to have enough knowledge to make good judgments about the choices that are presented to you."

(Conversation quoted from ABC's Political Punch)

The residents of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. and 10 Downing St. have two of the most intense and stressful jobs in the world, and that their next residents already recognize the need to deal with these stresses is a good sign.

Certainly there's such a thing as overdoing it, but there's a marked distinction between mindless vacation and thinking time. Thinking time is like sleep, processing information and recombining it along with reducing physical and mental stress (in fact, sleep absolutely constitutes thinking time).

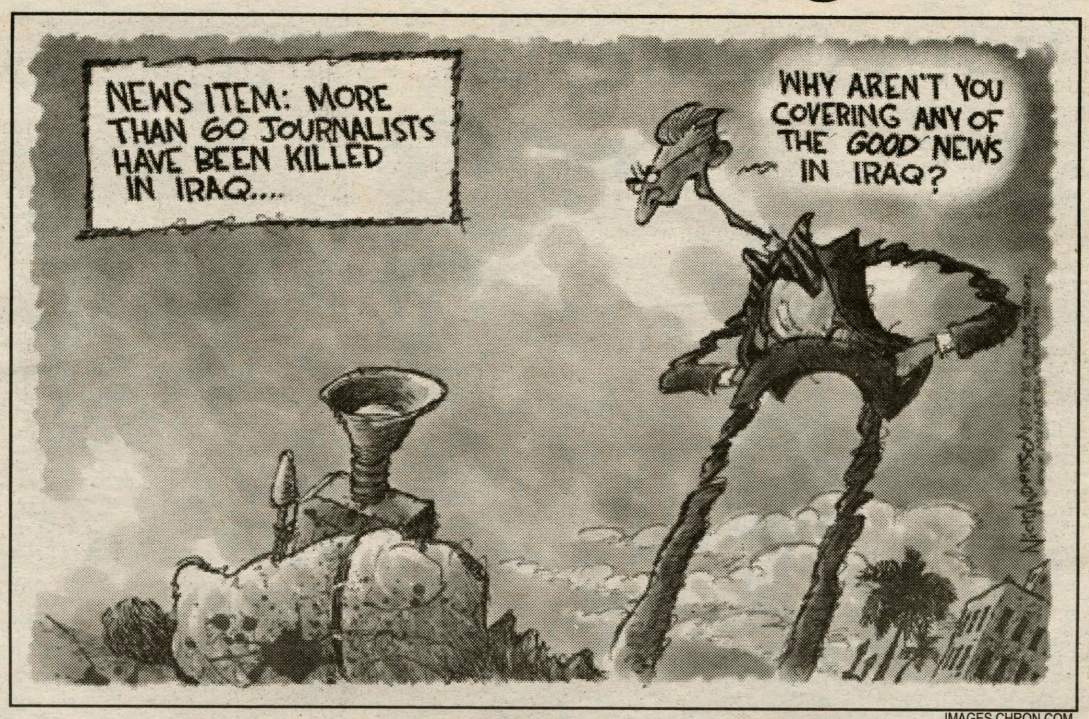
So to those who believe in the philosophy of 200% efficiency 100% of the time, take a minute to reflect on the thoughts of the next leaders of the free world; you might just come up with your next great idea.

Investigative Journalism- A Dangerous Profession

by David Sadove '10
Science & Technology Writer

Journalists at Hamilton are fortunate enough to avoid the perils that can exist in the profession. A writer might take some heat for offending someone in "Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down," but violence is generally not a concern when carrying a pen and notepad. American notions of a free press provide a degree of protection that is not as present in many Latin American countries. According to an overview of 2006 prepared by the Commission to Investigate Attacks against Journalists, "Twenty-eight journalists were murdered, while five others disappeared, last year in eight Latin American countries." Furthermore, the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression sponsored by the Organization of American States found that "between 1995 and 2005, 157 journalists were killed in 19 countries of the Americas for motives possibly connected to their jobs. As of the end of 2007, only 32 of these cases had produced some type of conviction."

The responsibility of the fourth estate is to inform the masses on a variety of issues. Sometimes this can involve uncovering corruption and crime. In countries where drug cartels wield as much power as the government, this responsibility to report truth is often met with violent opposition. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), the number of murders and death threats against journalists in Latin America is alarming, as journalists are specifically targeted for their work. In Peru, journalists are frequently targeted for criticizing drug traffickers and other offenders. In an April 22 report from this year, the CPJ reported on Miguel Ramírez, a journalist for the Peruvian newspaper El Comercio, whose life was threatened after he reported on a local drug kingpin. Ramírez had investigated the kingpin since 1995 and has received numerous threats since 2004. The newspaper has provided him with a security detail, but authorities have not yet investigated the threats.



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Investigative Journalists are not only being murdered, but also pressured to perform.

The lack of investigation by police is exactly why criminals continue their threats with impunity. In a report from September 9, the organization Reporters without Borders stated that "Journalists are once again being used as whipping boys by irate officials, disgruntled political and union activists, coca growers upset by threats to their interests, and police who abuse their authority."

While many reporters face regular death threats, others have actually been killed for investigations related to their work. In an Annual Report on press freedom in Mexico published by Reporters without Borders, Amando Ramírez was murdered on April 6, 2007 in Acapulco. Amando Ramírez, a reporter for Televisa in Acapulco, was shot dead as he left work. The murder occurred as a federal investigation against drug traffickers was underway. According to Chilean journalist Hernán Uribe, "journalists are gunned down by drug-traffickers and by various mafias- invariably for having witnessed crimes." Mexico remains a hazardous environment for reporters, with two murders and three disappearances in 2007. As recently as this past Saturday, Reporters without Borders reported on the kidnapping and subsequent torture of a reporter based in Oaxaca, Mexico- Pedro Matías Arrazola. His kidnapping is allegedly related to his criticism of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) in Mexico. The PRI ruled for over 70 years, and the political party retains a strong following.

Unfortunately, these murders can be misrepresented or underpublicized. Deaths of journalists in Columbia, which is experiencing ongoing civil warfare, can be misrepresented as general casualties of war. In addition, drug-related murders are more likely to receive coverage, as a news organization that supports the government is unlikely to report on nefarious activities that can possibly trace back to members of the government. The reason these journalists are murdered and threatened is a result of minimal prosecutions of the crimes. Violence towards journalists is a great deterrent towards freedom of expression. Unfortunately, if reporters continue to be murdered and threatened, investigative journalism may die as well.

Video Games: Increasing Technology Increases Fun

*from **Spectator**, page 19*

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Star Wars: The Force Unleashed is available now.

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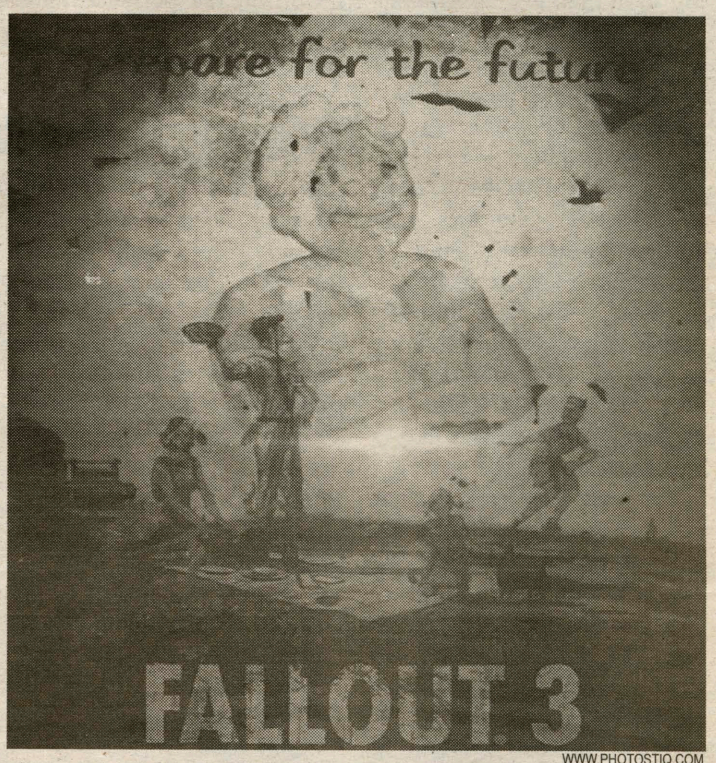
Spore is an intuitive game which puts you in control.

media experiences emerging in the past few years. Fallout 3 sends the player to a post-apocalyptic wasteland once called Washington D.C. two hundred years after a nuclear war with China. Through the use of a free-roaming environment and non-linear story arcs, the game allows the player to vividly experience the devastation and suffering which would result from any type of nuclear exchange.

"Star Wars: The Force Unleashed" is another example of how advances in video game technology are changing the ways people interact with and perceive virtual worlds. In "The Force Unleashed," one could literally use the force to destroy almost anything. The player could lift a Stormtrooper with force power, blast him with lightning, and then use him to batter down a door with a few presses of a button. The Euphoria Artificial Intelligence engine ensured that the Stormtrooper would react in varied and interesting ways.

*see **Video Game**, page 21*



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Fallout 3: Prepare for the Future, prepare for fun.

A FACT IS A SIMPLE STATEMENT THAT EVERYONE BELIEVES. IT IS INNOCENT, UNLESS FOUND GUILTY. A HYPOTHESIS IS A NOVEL SUGGESTION THAT NO ONE WANTS TO BELIEVE. IT IS GUILTY, UNTIL FOUND EFFECTIVE.

~EDWARD TELLER

Are the Tennessee Titans the Real Deal or Just a Flash?

by Abby Perer '09
Sports Contributor

It seems like just yesterday Patriots fans everywhere were mourning the loss of Super Bowl XLII. Last year at this time, the New England Patriots held the top spot in the National Football League, and America watched as they went on to complete a (near) perfect season with ease. The Patriots looked unstoppable, and the world was not surprised by the team's perfect record (after all, the Patriots had recently won three Super Bowls over four years), but were surprised and shocked when the Patriots lost Super Bowl XLII to the New York Giants.

This year, the Tennessee Titans are following in the footsteps of the 2007 Patriots team, and are on their way to a perfect season. Although people seem to be much more skeptical of the Titans' chances at perfection than they were of the Patriots', it also seems that despite the critics and the many obstacles and injuries they have faced this season the Titans remain a semi-serious contender for Super Bowl XLIII and the 19-0 record that eluded the Patriots last season.

After finishing the 2007 regular season with an unremarkable 10-6 record and a loss in the first round of the playoffs, no one could have predicted that the Tennessee Titans would be the number one team in the NFL ten weeks into the 2008 season. With a 9-0 record, the Titans have many people asking, where did this team come from?

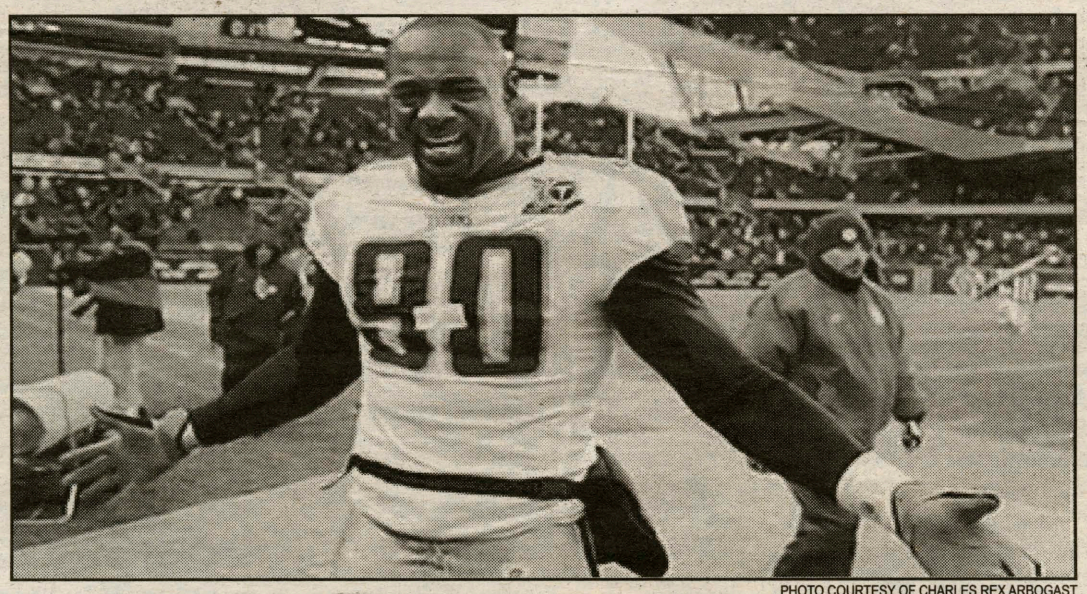


PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLES REX ARBOGAST

Jevon Kearse celebrates after the Tennessee Titans secure their league best ninth win.

Their story begins on April 26, 2008 when the Titans drafted a relatively small, unknown running back as the twenty-fifth overall pick in the NFL draft. At 5'11", 197 lbs., and hailing from Eastern Carolina, running back Chris Johnson was a risky pick, but has turned out to be a key player in his rookie season with the Titans. With well over 700 yards rushing this season, Johnson is the leading rusher in the AFC, and the fourth leading rusher in the NFL. Johnson has made the Titans' offense incredibly dynamic.

However, most people thought that the Titans' offense was finished on September 8, when starting quarterback Vince Young suffered an injury to his left knee in a game against the Jacksonville Jaguars. When Young went down, Titans fans everywhere were in dismay; that is, until team doctors announced that Young would be able to return to the field in as little as two weeks. This is where things got interesting: finishing the September 8 game after Young's injury, and starting the next game after that, veteran back-up quarterback Kerry Collins performed perfectly, and head coach of the Titans, Jeff Fisher, named 35 year-old Collins the starting quarterback of the team for the remainder of the season.

Since his surprising start this season, the recovered alcoholic and previously oft-inconsistent Collins has become a poised leader of the team, completing 147 of 248 pass attempts for 1,525 yards and five touchdowns. In their game against the Chicago Bears last week, when the Titans' running game was completely shutdown, Collins stepped up and threw for nearly 300 yards to get a win against a tough NFC rival.

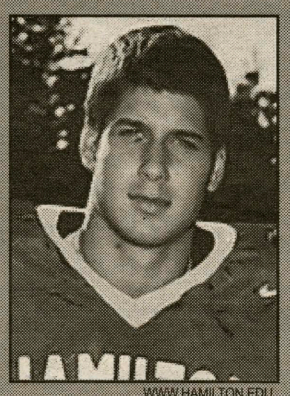
Whether getting it done on the ground, through the air, or with the NFL's fifth-ranked defense, the Titans have been finding ways to win with the unexpected leadership of Johnson and Collins.

With their next game on Sunday against the Jacksonville Jaguars, the Titans look to extend their record to 10-0, and whether one believes in the Titans or not, one thing is for sure: the Titans now have a bull's eye on their back as the team to beat in the NFL. At the same time, Titans fans shouldn't expect this 2008 season to be the beginning of a Tennessee dynasty; with Johnson facing a potential sophomore slump next season, and Collins facing the possibility of becoming the next Tommy Maddox, it's likely that the Titans are one-hit wonders. As one Hamilton student put it, "The Titans are like Cisco (singer of "The Thong Song")–on top for now, but could fade into the background pretty quickly."

Who's Hot in Hamilton Athletics

PHOTO COURTESY OF WHITNEY ROSENBAUM '10

Whitney Rosenbaum '10 won three events in the Liberty League Championship last season, and is expected to continue her success this year. Tomorrow, the Men and Women's Swim Teams will host an intra-team meet including alumni swimmers. Come out to Bristol Pool and show your support for the first competition of the season.



WWW.HAMILTON.EDU

John Lawrence '10 was a stalwart for Hamilton's defense by leading the NESCAC with seven interceptions. He returned those interceptions for 112 yards and a touchdown. His 53 tackles placed him second on the team.

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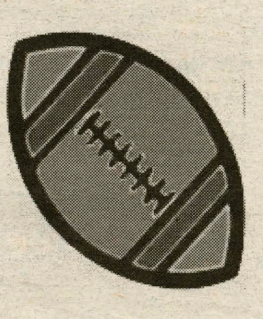
Erin McNally '12 earned Liberty League Rookie of the Year with her offensive repertoire. Two goals in key moments propelled the team to its best record in 13 years. She also contributed eight assists for the year.

Hamilton by the Numbers

Women's Soccer
8-4-2

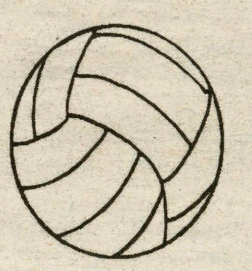
Men's Soccer
8-6

Football
2-6



Field Hockey
8-7

Volleyball
10-22



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SPECTATOR SPORTS

November 14, 2008

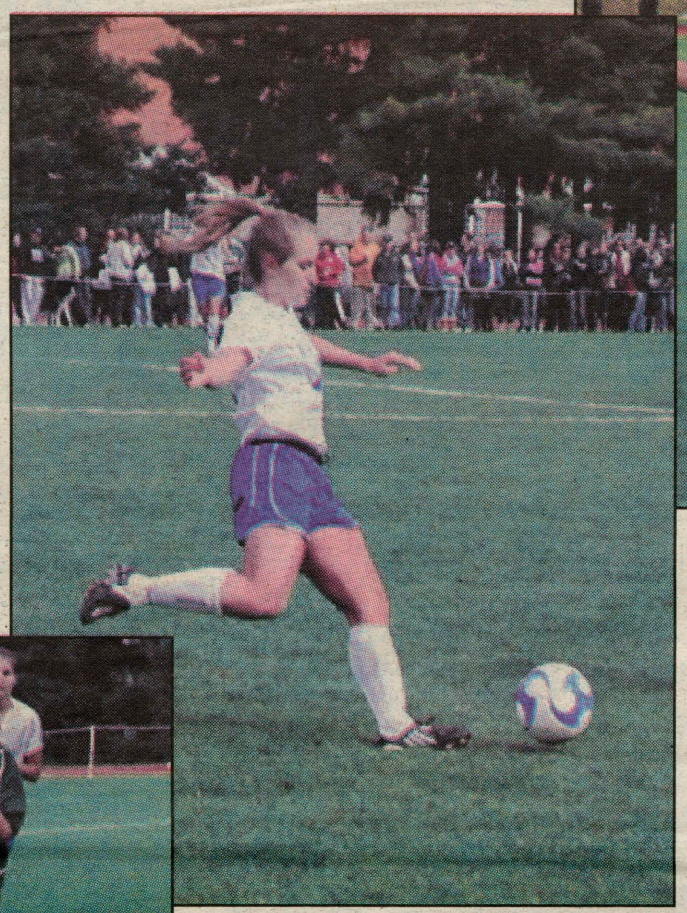
Women's Soccer Team Finishes Tenth Winning Season

Erica Dressler '09 Receives Liberty League Honors for Her Stellar Play on the Field

by Brandon Leibsohn '10
Sports Editor

The women's soccer team completed its tenth consecutive winning season. Eight wins earned the team a sixth place finish in the Liberty League. Despite not making it into the championships, the Continentals still put together a great year beating up on non-league opponents. Five road victories showed that the team could handle itself in hostile territory, and Hamilton came on strong near the end of the year with an offensive attack that will definitely serve well it next season.

Erica Dressler '09 played tremendously during the year and put together one of the statistically strongest offensive seasons in the history of the school's program. With 27 total points including a team-high 13 goals, she established herself as the top player in the Liberty League, earning a spot on the First Team All-Liberty League squad. Not only was she honored for her play on the field, but she was also recognized by the College Sports Information Directors of America for her performance in the classroom with a spot on the 2008 Academic All-District Women's Soccer Team for District 1.



Kendra Wulczyn '10 goes for a shot.

Laura Brandimarte '11 moves by a defender.

Anne Graveley '11 breaks away for her second goal of the year.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF ERNEST WILLIAMS

Two other players on the team were selected for Liberty League all-star awards. Lauren Farver '11 made Second Team All-Liberty League by scoring on eight of her 21 shots on goal. Anne Graveley '11 made the Honorable Mention list by connecting for two goals and an assist.

Kate Fowler '10 and Hailey Bobin '12 teamed up for great goaltending play and look to be key contributors for next season. With five shutouts, the pair saved over 84 percent of all shots they faced.

Offense came easy for the Continentals this year as they outscored their opponents by 20. More specifically, they got off to quick starts by taking a commanding lead in the first period of all their games, 17-4. One hundred shots separated Hamilton from its competitors, allowing the team to score 33 times throughout the season. An astounding 81 corner kicks illustrates the pressure that the team created through its potent offensive attack.

The future looks bright for the Continentals, as only four players will be lost to graduation. An upperclassmen-led squad will be invaluable because of their great experience and leadership potential. A more balanced offense will give a boost to the forwards and may offer a better chance to control the style of play in the team's favor. With the continued growth and progress that the team demonstrated near the end of the year, the Liberty League should stand on notice because the Continentals will be a force to be reckoned with next year.

Field Hockey Takes St. Lawrence to the Limit

The Team Secures Their First Winning Season in 13 Years

by Kate Greenough '09
Sports Editor

As the Hamilton women's field hockey team wrapped up their 2008 season, the feelings were bittersweet among team members.

Tri-captain Christina Matulaitis '09 remarks, "I had a really great time playing with these girls for four years, some of my best Hamilton memories are of field hockey. It was really hard to face the end of something you've done for 10 years of your life, but the team has come so far and I can't wait to come back to the alumni game and see how we have progressed."

For the three senior captains, Matulaitis, Olivia Gambir '09, and Cassie Sullivan '09, an 8-7-0 overall record meant the first winning season in their four-year collegiate careers. The team also concluded their play with a winning record in the Liberty League with a 4-3-0 finish. Although a narrow 2-1 loss to St. Lawrence in the Liberty League tournament semi-final marked the end of the season, the 2008 Continentals left their mark with several upsets against nationally ranked teams, and two first team league all-stars (Colleen Callaghan '11 and Erin McNally '12). McNally was also honored as the Liberty League Rookie of the Year.

After three consecutive mid-season losses against Cortland, Skidmore, and Union, respectively, the team turned around to churn out four successive victories. Among these wins was a 1-0 shutout against nationally ranked Rensselaer, a team that boasts several all-league players, and an all-American team captain. Amy Allen '10 sealed the victory against the Rensselaer Red with a goal in the second half, putting an end to the Red's six-game winning streak.

When asked about their favorite moments of the fall season, all three captains unanimously cited their 3-2 victory over William Smith as a memorable moment and tribute to their hard work in practices and positive mentality.

"The proudest moment of the season was definitely beating William Smith on their turf, which clinched our seat in the Liberty league tournament," says Matulaitis. "It was the first time we were forced into overtime but we scored right away. It was also the first time we beat that team in seventeen years!"

The Continentals were down by a goal with just under four minutes remaining when Callaghan fired a shot that was tipped in by a William-Smith defender to send the teams into overtime.

"It was definitely a David and Goliath moment for us. That game showed that this team doesn't give up. No matter the score, no matter the opponent- we never stopped believing we could win," Gambir adds.

In reflection, Sullivan echoes, "that game showed that it's not always about skill, sometimes it's just about heart."

Although the team thrived with unified positivity and strong senior leadership, the women commend coach Gillian McDonald for her patience, support, and strategic coaching. McDonald also brought in ten new freshmen recruits to the 2008 team, deepening the roster across positions.

Moreover, "she's helped the team realize that we can't just settle at where we are, that we can't be satisfied," Sullivan adds.

Coach McDonald and the rest of the underclassmen will feel the loss of the senior tri-captains, who contributed largely to their winning 2008 season, and paved the path for future victories. The 2008 season also marks the first year the team has made it to the post-season tournament level since 1995. With a young roster and a host of underclass rising stars, the Continentals are poised to win the League in the upcoming seasons. All three seniors, although finished with their field hockey careers, remarked on their excitement to see the team in action next year. Gambir sums it up perfectly: "They are going to kick ass. Point blank."